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Donors as different as candidates

CTU, progressive unions fund Johnson, while Vallas backed by business leaders

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Since Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson became the last candidates standing for Chicago mayor, the two have been on campaign fundraising overdrive, collecting nearly $17 million in less than a month.

Vallas, the former Chicago Public Schools CEO, has been the clear winner so far in the fundraising game, receiving just under $11 million to the $5.8 million that has gone to Johnson, the Cook County commissioner and organizer for the Chicago Teachers Union.

The candidates' deep ties to education — and their sharply opposing views on it — are also reflected in their respective contributors, according to state campaign finance records.

While well more than half of Johnson's cash since March 1 has come from CTU, other teacher union organizations or progressive unions, Vallas has received millions of dollars from Chicago and suburban business leaders. Some have ties to groups that back a state-sponsored scholarship program for private schools as well as leaders with interests in charter schools.

Whomever voters choose as Chicago's next mayor on April 4 will not just run City Hall but also manage key milestones

Turn to Donors, *Page 6*

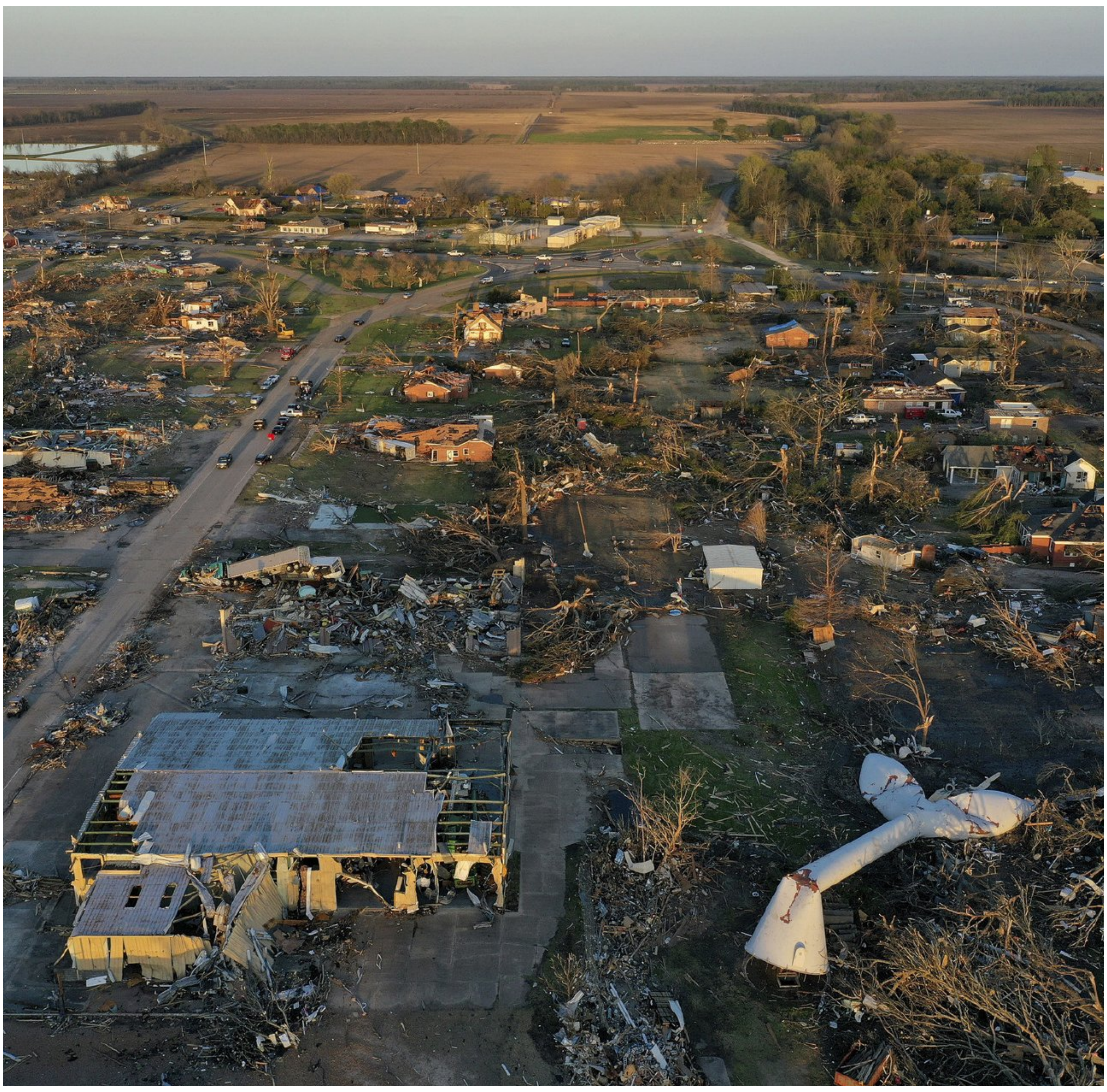
JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ELECTION 2023
CHICAGO MAYOR

Johnson, Vallas square off again before election

Brandon Johnson, far left, and Paul Vallas stayed on the defensive Tuesday night as they spoke about issues ranging from how to keep students safe from sexual abuse at school to revitalizing Michigan Avenue downtown in their final televised debate before the April 4 election.

Chicagoland, Page 3



Damage is strewn after from a series of powerful storms and at least one tornado in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. At least 26 people have reportedly been killed with dozens more injured following devastating storms across western Mississippi and Alabama on Saturday. **WILL NEWTON/GETTY**

Tornado targets tracked

Storm cells are touching down in new areas; season is starting sooner and lasting longer, experts say

By Ezra Maille
Chicago Tribune

John Sergeant, chief of emergency medical services at the Naperville Fire Department, was 12 years old when he first saw what a tornado could do. At the time, Sergeant had gone to help family members in the aftermath of the devastating tornado that killed 29 people and injured 350 others in Plainfield in 1990.

As a first responder, Sergeant said he was among the first to arrive on the scene after a tornado struck Naperville, Woodridge and Darien on Father's Day in 2021, damaging hundreds of houses and trees. A Woodridge woman lost her unborn child when she was struck by a tree.

From gas leaks to downed power lines to confused victims, the chaos extends beyond deaths, injuries and lost property, Sergeant said.

"When I pulled up in my car and I could see the devastation, I was instantly reminded of what I saw as a young kid," he said. "I instantly could remember what my family members went through over the next days and weeks and months and years, dealing with their own PTSD from those events.

"This is not just a today problem. We have a today problem, but these people are going to have a months and a years problem."

Although the role of climate change in tornadoes is not fully understood, researchers say locations are shifting, the season is lengthening and the number of tornadoes in a single event is increasing.

Victor Gensini, an associate professor in the Earth, Atmosphere and Environment Department at Northern Illinois University, said the biggest impact of climate change is on the location of tornadoes throughout the United States. He said the number

Turn to Tornado, *Page 2*

Police: Nashville shooter hid guns

Parents unaware firearms were in home, officials say

By Jonathan Mattise
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The shooter who killed three students and three staff members at a Christian school in Nashville legally bought seven weapons in recent years and hid the guns from their parents before carrying out the attack by firing indiscriminately at victims and spraying gunfire through doors and windows, police said Tuesday.

The violence Monday at The Covenant School was the latest school shooting to roil the nation and was planned carefully. The shooter had drawn a detailed map of the school, including potential entry points, and conducted surveillance of the building before carrying out the massacre, authorities said.

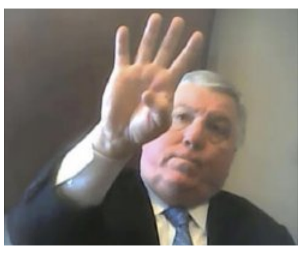
The suspect, Audrey Hale, 28, was a former student at the school. Hale did not target specific victims — among them three 9-year-olds and the head of the school — but did target "this school, this church building," police spokesperson Don Aaron said at a news conference Tuesday.

Hale was under a doctor's care for an undisclosed emotional disorder and was not known to police before the attack, Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said at the news conference.

If police had been told that Hale was suicidal or homicidal, "then we would have tried to get those weapons," Drake said. "But as it stands, we had absolutely no idea who this person was or if (Hale) even existed."

Tennessee does not have a "red flag" law, which lets police step in and take firearms away from people who threaten to kill.

Turn to Shooter, *Page 10*



Lobbyist Jay Doherty allegedly used his fingers to show how he was told to pay former Ald. Frank Olivo$4,000 a month.
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it with those guys'

Jurors see undercover videos of Madigan associates in the 'ComEd Four' trial

By Jason Meisner
and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

Shortly after being confronted by FBI agents in 2019 and deciding to cooperate in an ongoing bribery probe, then-ComEd Senior Vice President Fidel Marquez secretly videotaped a lunch meeting in Springfield with one of House Speaker Michael Madigan's most trusted confidants.

The FBI had instructed Marquez to ask Madigan's associate, Michael McClain, what he should tell ComEd's new CEO about their scheme to funnel payments to a roster of Madigan-approved allies through a consulting company owned by Jay Doherty, a longtime ComEd contract lobbyist.

Marquez's hidden recorder was rolling as McClain munched on pizza at Saputo's, a popular restaurant in Springfield frequented by the political crowd — including Madigan himself.

"The contract with Doherty is under the CEO's budget," Marquez said on the video recording, as McClain paused to wipe his hands and sip from a glass. "I never had to touch it. Now somebody needs to talk to Joe (Dominguez) about it. … I don't know what they do.

Turn to Trial, *Page 4*

TODAY'S WEATHER
High **39** Low **27**
Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

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VISIT…

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Kevin Smith gets a phone call as his friends and daughter Amy Sue, 13, help demolish what's left of his home as debris burns in the background in Plainfield on Aug 31, 1990. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Tornado

from Page 1

of tornadoes in Plains states is trending down, while the Midwest and mid-South are seeing an increase.

"That's a really, really big deal for human exposure and vulnerability," Gensini said. "A tornado that goes through a wheat field in Kansas is not a big deal, but a tornado that goes through southern Cook County is a huge deal."

On Friday a devastating tornado tore through Mississippi, leaving at least 25 dead and dozens injured or missing. The small, rural town of Rolling Fork was nearly wiped out.

This tornado was rare because it carved a path nearly 60 miles. According to a Washington Post report, less than 1% of tornadoes travel more than 50 miles.

On Dec. 10, 2021, another unusual tornado stayed on the ground for 165 miles in Kentucky. That tornado and several others left at least 88 dead in five states, six of them in Illinois.

In addition to seeing more tornadoes in new areas, Gensini said data shows tornado season is starting sooner than usual and lasting longer into the fall and winter months.

In Illinois two tornadoes in February, one in Naperville and another in Champaign County, took residents by surprise. These events don't typically happen in February, though experts say tornadoes have the potential to form anytime.

Illinois has averaged 54 tornadoes a year based on data collected from 1991 through 2020, according to the Illinois state climatologist.

The Enhanced Fujita scale, or EF scale, measures the intensity of a tornado on a scale of 0 to 5, based on the amount of damage caused, which is also used to estimate the wind speed. The Plainfield tornado, which ranks as an EF-5, packed 200-plus-mph winds and was one of the worst in Illinois history.

"We have seen an increase in severe weather in Illinois, specifically tornado activity," said Kevin Sur, public information officer for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

"Tornadoes can happen at any time and anywhere. Metro/urban areas are not immune to tornadoes, as several tornadoes have been identified within city limits of Chicago."

Jeff Trapp, a professor and head of the Department of Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois, said tornadoes have the potential to occur every month of the year in Illinois. He said the state typically sees three tornadoes in March versus 15 in May, the height of the season. "Generally speaking, days on which there are multiple tornadoes, those days have increased across the country," Trapp said.

On July 24 the National Weather Service confirmed two tornado touchdowns in the Chicago suburbs, one in Naperville and one in Crest Hill. On April 30 three tornadoes were confirmed in Illinois, one in DuPage County and two in Boone County.

The Chicago area was hit hard by storms in summer 2021.

The Father's Day tornado on June 20, where Sergeant arrived as a first responder, was one of four tornadoes that day. The EF-3 Naperville tornado was the most intense, with wind speeds up to 165 mph.

On June 25 through June 26 another four tornadoes were confirmed and downtown Chicago had its first tornado warning issued since June 23, 2010. At least seven touched down during a three-hour period on Aug. 9 in the northwest suburbs.

A rare derecho spawned 15 tornadoes on Aug. 10, 2020, in northern Illinois, including one that touched down in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

Harold Brooks, a research meteorologist at NOAA with a doctorate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said the United States sees roughly 500 EF-1 or greater tornadoes per year.

When including EF-0 tornadoes, in which there is little damage and winds are less than 86 mph, the country averages roughly 1,200 tornadoes annually, according to the National Weather Service.

Typically, cold fronts move through the center of the United States and into the Gulf of Mexico. When a cold front mixes with warm, moist winds from the south and creates a thunderstorm, spinning air currents within the storm can lead to a tornado.

A warming atmosphere could mean more moisture and instability, resulting in more energy for tornado formation. But some research suggests that wind shear, the change in speed and direction with elevation, could decline.

There is also concern that climate change could alter the tornado season, especially in the winter months when wind is plentiful as the polar jet stream dips into the Midwest.

Last week the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report that found the planet is unlikely to be on track to meet its most ambitious climate target — limiting warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial temperatures — by the early 2030s. More extreme weather, such as flooding, drought and severe storms, is expected as the planet warms.

Gensini said there are very few areas of the United States that don't have the potential to see tornadoes. Referring to future projections and trends of the past 50 years, Gensini said the Great Plains will likely continue to get drier and more arid, and severe weather will shift away from that area into the North and East.

He emphasized that even if there aren't that many more tornadoes, the movement of those that do occur to more densely populated areas as a result of climate change would be detrimental.

"Let's say we have two times as many tornadoes in the future due to climate change," Gensini said. "That's pretty amazing, but if they're all happening in western Kansas, is it really that big of a societal issue?

"Humans continue to grow, our cities continue to sprawl and the dart board continues to grow in terms of the likelihood of being hit by a tornado."

Born and raised in the Midwest, Sergeant described living with the threat of tornadoes as "just a fact of life," adding that he's used to it. He stays prepared by keeping flashlights, spare batteries and extra shoes in his basement, where his family knows to go in the event of severe weather.

As a reminder, Sergeant said residents shouldn't necessarily rely on tornado sirens to alert them to impending storms. He said the sirens were designed as an outdoor warning but were not made to be heard indoors.

Additionally, given that sirens may only provide a few minutes of preparation time, Sergeant recommends using a weather radio as the tried-and-true method for getting updates from the National Weather Service and more immediate notifications for imminent tornado activity.

"Normally, we can see big storms developing, and we can give people at least 30 minutes warning of a severe thunderstorm," Sergeant said. "(Weather radios) are as important as a smoke detector in a house.

"At least then, we're only dealing with damaged property and not necessarily people injured severely."

John Sergeant, chief of emergency medical services at the Naperville Fire Department, sits in a technical rescue trailer filled with tools and equipment needed for specialized rescues, such as tornadoes and building collapses. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Alda Dougherty talks about the damage to her home and her neighbor's home following a tornado in Naperville near Nutmeg Lane on June 21, 2021. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Tribune books

"Dinner at Home" Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

"Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster." Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

"Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change." Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

"10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything." You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

"Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything" How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this do-it-yourself guide.

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CHICAGOLAND

ELECTION 2023 CHICAGO MAYOR

Johnson, Vallas spar at last televised debate

By Alice Yin, A.D. Quig and Gregory Pratt
Chicago Tribune

Mayoral candidates Brandon Johnson, left, and Paul Vallas acknowledge the audience after Vallas wished Johnson a happy birthday before a debate at WBBM-TV in Chicago on Tuesday. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson spent the last televised debate before next Tuesday's mayoral election on the defensive as they faced tough questions about their political records and associations.

Johnson and Vallas spoke about issues ranging from how to keep students safe from sexual abuse at school to filling the Chicago Police Department's enduring officer vacancies.

The debate, hosted by CBS Chicago and moderated by Irika Sargent and Rufus Williams, opened up with the two candidates discussing the role that the city's most influential unions are playing in the race — including the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police, whose president told The New York Times this week that 800 to 1,000 Chicago police officers would quit were Johnson to be victorious in the mayor's race. John Catanzara, the often-incendiary police union head, added that there would be "blood in the streets."

Johnson said that Catanzara is a frequent source of "disturbing, ridiculous" comments, including downplaying the Jan. 6, 2021, attack at the U.S. Capitol. Then Johnson indicated that the FOP's endorsement of Vallas was a red flag.

"The fact of the matter is it actually speaks to the type of candidacy that my opponent is running as someone who is supported by the extreme right wing and has caused tremendous turmoil and divisiveness," Johnson said. "The truth of the matter is my campaign is surrounded by a multicultural, multigenerational movement."

Vallas did not directly address Catanzara's remarks during the debate, though earlier Tuesday he said he "condemns" the statements as "absolutely irresponsible." Vallas instead vowed that the FOP would not have influence on him, while Johnson's campaign is heavily bankrolled by the Chicago Teachers Union and closely affiliated labor organizations.

Sargent then asked Johnson to acknowledge statements he'd made about defunding the police in recent years: "Do you acknowledge making those recorded and documented statements, yes or no?"

Johnson did not answer.

"I'm not going to defund the police," he said instead.

Sargent repeated the question, to no avail.

"What I've acknowledged is the fact that there are people who are incredibly, incredibly frustrated," Johnson said before Sargent cut him off.

After the moderator's third attempt to press Johnson, he said, "You've already, you've already quoted — what I'm saying is, though —"

Sargent tried a fourth time, and Johnson at last relented and said, "Of course I'm acknowledging it."

But Johnson refused to say that his past comments — including describing the "defund the police" movement as "not just admirable, but is necessary" — clashed with his promise this week to not reduce Chicago police's budget "one penny."

"They're not differing positions," Johnson said. "I never said we're going to take money away from the police. … I've never said I was going to cut the police budget."

Johnson then called such questioning "the agenda of the Republican Party," saying Democratic Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and President Joe Biden were also subjected to the GOP "lie" that they would defund police.

Johnson has campaigned on promoting 200 detectives to help solve more crimes. Asked whether he planned to do any hiring to make up the difference, Johnson — who spent the first stretch of the campaign declining to answer whether he would fill police vacancies — said, "Of course we want to hire."

Vallas was again confronted about his connection to Awake Illinois, a right-wing organization that has espoused anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. The candidate said he appeared at a fundraiser with Awake last summer only because he was invited by a pro-school choice friend, Chicago pastor Corey Brooks, and was unaware of the group's history.

"I immediately denounced them, and I criticized them and obviously I condemned them," Vallas said. "I've had a lifelong history. I've supported marriage equality when it was called gay marriage in 2000."

However, Vallas and his campaign took multiple days and inquiries from the Tribune in August to denounce the "hateful" rhetoric from Awake, which held the fundraiser of concern in June.

Vallas was also asked about his history "at the nexus of the pro-charter, reform movement."

"Your record shows that you have not improved outcomes for the lowest-performing students," the moderator said. "What are your plans to improve the educational outcomes for all children in Chicago Public Schools?"

Vallas pushed back the contention was "absolutely false," saying test scores in language arts and math improved in Chicago for "six consecutive years," and that he had tripled math scores and doubled reading scores in Philadelphia "across all demographics."

He repeated a campaign pledge to keep schools open through evenings, on weekends, holidays and over the summer to keep youths "fully engaged," and he committed to investing in the trades.

Vallas was confronted a third time about associations with conservatives when moderators cited a 2021 interview he did with a radio show in which he said unspecific school curriculum inspired by critical race theory was harming families and taking emphasis off more important subjects. The former CEO of Chicago Public Schools denied that and said, that "I made no statements of the sort. What I said was when you're going to reform the curriculum or transform the curriculum, you need to focus on three things."

He listed the core subjects, accountability and the approach of the new curriculum not being "divisive."

"A bit wonky, but nevertheless, that was the context," Vallas said. "Let me point out that I not only integrated Black history into the curriculum so that it was just not taught in a single month, but it was taught year-round."

The moderators noted Noting that CPS had recently settled two cases involving sexual abuse of students by adults in the system and that CPS' inspector general investigated hundreds of other cases. Johnson wasalso asked specifically how he would "stop the abuse of our children in schools?"

Johnson pledged to follow through on investments for students, including hiring social workers, counselors and therapists. Pressed further, he said: "Listen, they break the law and they sexually assault someone, they get to have their day in court. And if they're found guilty, they should have full punishment. … We have broken systems all over the city of Chicago. … ," he said, and whether abuse happens in a school or church, "We have to make sure that we're holding people accountable."

Applauding changes the district made to monitor potential abuse, Vallas said he would "be really aggressive about doing background checks" to "identify who have been suspects in the past."

The two heated up the most toward the end, when Johnson slammed Vallas for pointing out that Johnson he only taught at CPS for only four years and insinuating that he's overplaying his former career on the campaign trail.

"The fact that he's being dismissive of a Black man who taught for four years in Chicago Public Schools is, is — you got to stop doing that, Paul, you just do," Johnson said.

Vallas denied that characterization.

"I'm criticizing his leadership ability and his lack of management competency," Vallas said. "That's what I'm questioning. Not his four years as a teacher."

Johnson cut in: "Then don't bring it up then." Meanwhile, Vallas began to address Johnson's pension, he will receive from his time as a CTU organizer, saying, "He'll actually retire with a teacher pension despite the fact that he's only been a teacher for four years."

"We're going to retire you out in three days," Johnson quickly retorted.

The debate concluded with a lightning round in which the candidates surprisingly had little dissent in their support of these issues: qualified immunity, reparations, the proposed Anjanette Young ordinance cracking down on police raids, the construction of a south suburban airport and the phasing out of speed cameras.

On the last point, Vallas said he would keep them near schools, while Johnson said if he fails to get the cameras out, he would keep revenue from tickets funneled to the ZIP codes of their origin.

In fact, the mood lightened up so much around then that Johnson joked he was setting a trend by answering the speed cameras question with a longer-than-allowed response, sparking Vallas to do the same.

"You're leading the way," Vallas granted him. "We're really friends, believe it or not."

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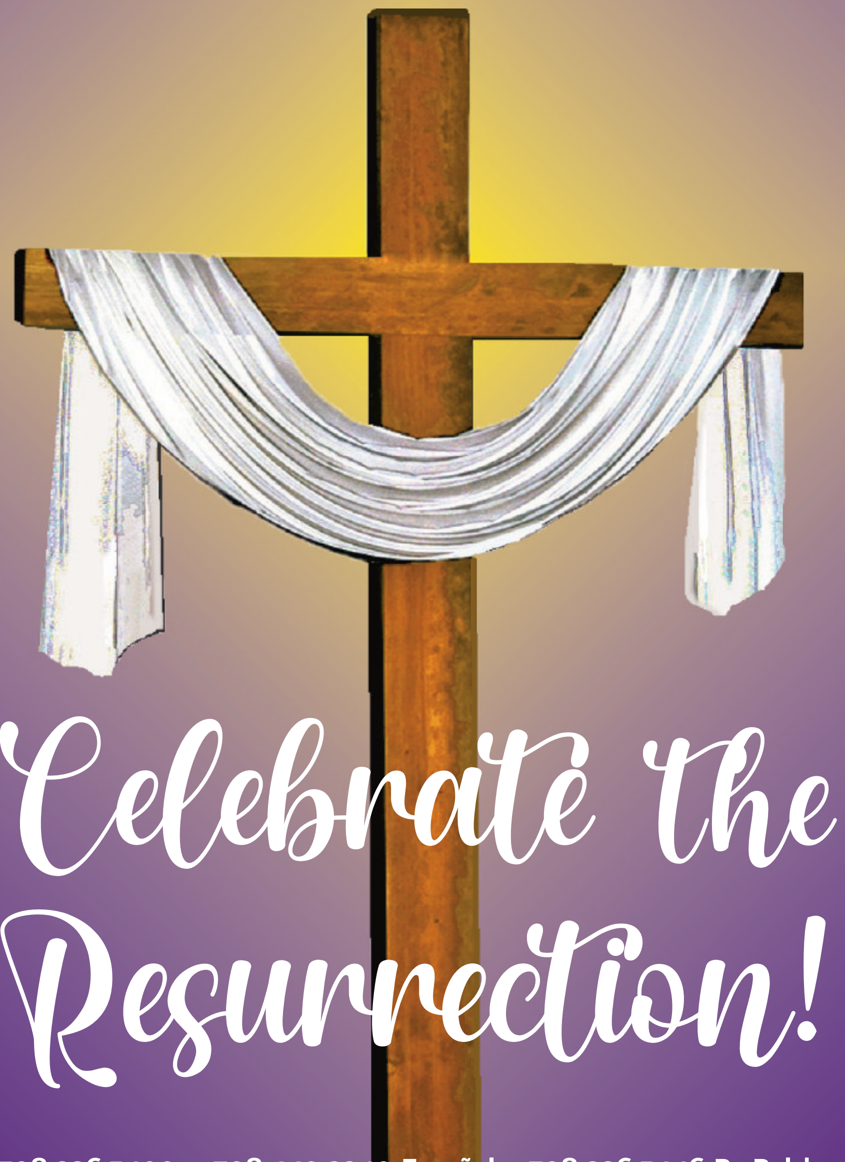
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Trial

from Page 1

I don't know if I can tell Joe what they do."

McClain explained that the payments were going to former Chicago aldermen and precinct captains. "It's a favor," he said. And if the IRS ever asked questions about their work, "Doherty's got to prove it," not them, McClain added.

Marquez agreed. However, he said he didn't know how Dominguez, a former federal prosecutor from New Jersey who'd taken over as ComEd's top executive, would react.

"Right. I don't either," McClain replied. "And he could just as easily require something in writing, but I would say to you: Don't put anything in writing."

The recording was among a series of pivotal conversations played for the jury Tuesday in the "ComEd Four" trial, where four Madigan associates, including McClain, are accused of conspiring to bribe the then-powerful speaker in order to win his influence over ComEd legislation in Springfield.

The videos, along with dozens of recorded telephone conversations and internal emails, have taken jurors to the heart of the conspiracy allegations, and have also painted a stark portrait of power politics as it was played under Madigan's Democratic regime, with a stream of jobs and benefits flowing from ComEd to people connected to the speaker's operation.

In addition to the nearly $1.3 million paid to Doherty's subcontractors, Marquez testified Tuesday about related schemes to get former McPier boss Juan Ochoa appointed to ComEd's board even though he was held in very low regard by many in the Hispanic community, and to hire a slew of summer interns sent from Madigan's 13th Ward, including kids whose grades were well below the company's standards.

Other potentially damaging videos played in court Tuesday included a conversation where Doherty acknowledged to Marquez that the Madigan guys he'd been paying as subcontractors did nothing for him on a day-to-day basis but "keep their mouth shut."

And weeks later, Marquez recorded a meeting at ComEd's offices where he, McClain and longtime ComEd lobbyist John Hooker explained to Dominguez that the Madigan subcontracts were merely a different version of the state's old-style political patronage system, which started with the utility hiring meter readers from Madigan's ward decades ago.

"So, that's just what we've, we've always done for, good lord, over 20 years now," McClain said. "Because we can't really do meter readers, we don't have 'em any more."

McClain, Doherty, Pramaggiore and Hooker are all indicted on charges of bribery conspiracy in the case, which is now in its third week.

Defendant Jay Doherty exits the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse for the day during the ongoing "ComEd Four" trial on Tuesday. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Madigan and McClain, meanwhile, are facing separate racketeering charges alleging an array of corrupt schemes, including the bribery plot by ComEd.

The defense has argued that what prosecutors say was bribery was actually nothing more than honest, legal political lobbying, and that there was no evidence Madigan did anything to directly help ComEd in exchange for benefits that flowed to his cronies.

Attorneys for the defendants, who will get the chance to cross-examine Marquez beginning on Wednesday, have sought to paint him as an opportunist who cooperated with the government to save his own skin.

They've also pointed out that Marquez was being coached by investigators on what to say in the conversations he recorded.

Marquez began his testimony Monday by telling the jury about being confronted by the FBI in January 2019. After FBI agents played some of the wiretapped recordings he was captured on, he decided to cooperate and make secret recordings of his colleagues.

He ultimately pleaded guilty to one count of bribery conspiracy and faces up to five years in prison, but if he testifies truthfully, prosecutors will recommend no jail time, he said.

At the outset of his testimony Tuesday, Marquez was asked why he agreed to cooperate.

"After hearing those wiretap recordings, um, I uh, uh, with all these hires and requests, it was something, I understood why were doing it,' Marquez said. "I didn't like it. ... But I was concerned."

"Were you scared?" Assistant U.S. Attorney Amarjeet Bhachu asked.

"Yes," Marquez testified.

Another video played Tuesday morning showed a meeting at Marquez's ComEd office on Feb. 13, 2019, where Doherty explained the origins of the scheme to slip the cadre of Madigan-backed subcontractors onto his own lobbying contract with ComEd.

On the video, Doherty said his contract with ComEd goes "all the way back to Frank (Clark)," the former CEO. "I started working for Commonwealth Edison, thank you Lord, in 1985," Doherty said, pausing to look skyward.

Former ComEd Senior Vice President Fidel Marquez in 2012. **WARREN SKALSKI/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Then Doherty levels with Marquez, saying, "This is just you and me talking. I don't even know who else knows this."

He then told Marquez a story about getting a call one day years ago from Hooker, who said he had a subcontractor, former Ald. Frank Olivo from Madigan's 13th Ward, who needed to be paid through Doherty's firm.

"'Jay, I've got a sub for you,' " Doherty recalled Hooker said. "'We're gonna pay him every month and you just pay him." As he spoke, Doherty silently held up four fingers, which Marquez said indicated Olivo was paid $4,000 a month.

From there, Doherty ticked off other subcontracts — with Ed Moody, a former Cook County Recorder of Deeds and longtime 13th Ward precinct captain; Ray Nice, another 13th Ward precinct captain; and retiring 23rd Ward Ald. Mike Zalweski, a longtime Madigan ally.

Over the years, Doherty's contract with ComEd ballooned to $400,000 a year, with much of it going to pay Madigan political friends, according to trial testimony.

Doherty joked on the video that the extra cash running through his firm made it look like "I make a gillion dollars."

As he had with McClain, Marquez asked Doherty for details about what work the subcontractors did, under the guise that Dominquez would be inquiring since the funds had come from Pramaggiore's budget.

"What do you have them doing?" Marquez asked.

"Well, not much, to answer the question," Doherty said. "... They keep their mouth shut, and you know. But do they do anything for me on a day-to-day basis? No."

Also on video, Doherty said ComEd's money "comes from Springfield" and that the contract should not be "tinkered" with. He said he has "every reason to believe" that McClain talks directly with Madigan about it.

"My bottom-line advice would be, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it' with those guys," Doherty said.

Three weeks later, Marquez video recorded another meeting, this time with him, Hooker, McClain and Dominguez, where they informed Dominguez about the arrangement.

McClain explained the system of subcontractors evolved over the years as Madigan and other politicians no longer had opportunities to recommend political friends to ComEd through a sort of old-school patronage operation because basic jobs, such as for meter readers, were no longer needed.

McClain said it wasn't just Madigan who asked the company to find jobs. McClain also explained that former Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, had recommended that ComEd hire former suburban GOP Sen. Tom Walsh as a lobbyist and he was added to the company lineup in

***Turn to Trial,** Page 5*

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Trial

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Springfield.

"That's what we do, right?" McClain said.

McClain then ticked off the reasons they were on the payroll.

"So what we have is ... Zalewski. Used to be an alderman ... and his son is chairman of the revenue committee," McClain told Dominguez on the video. "Um, Ray Nice, who's a top three precinct committeeman. ... They're all, they're all good, solid people."

Dominguez eventually approved keeping the subcontractors on Doherty's contract, equating their deal to a lobbying team that doesn't work full speed all year but then can make things happen at a "magic moment" that makes keeping them on board all worth it.

Jurors also listened to a recorded call between Marquez and Pramaggiore from Feb. 16, 2019, that contained candid conversation after she left ComEd to become CEO of Exelon Utilities, including how she wanted Marquez to avoid seeing the subcontractor issue blow up while ComEd still had legislation pending in Springfield.

"We do not want to get caught up in a, you know, disruptive battle where, you know, somebody gets their nose out of joint ... and then we get forced to give 'em a five-year contract because we're in the middle of needing to get something done in Springfield," she said.

When asked who Pramaggiore was worried about getting their "nose out of joint," Marquez said: "Michael Madigan."

Also concerned about company dynamics, Pramaggiore worried that Dominguez is "going to do a victory lap" and "have another thing on" her, viewing her business rival as "a very insecure person."

Prosecutors also played a secretly recorded video Marquez made of him at lunch with Hooker at the Union League Club in late January 2019. It appeared as though the camera was hidden in Marquez's shirt because the top of Hooker's head and eye glasses were often the only thing visible. At times, the camera pointed toward the ceiling.

"(Doherty's) got three subs with him right now. You know they come and go. I gotta think how to sit down with Joe and explain that," Marquez says on the recording with Hooker. "I totally expect him to push back."

Marquez testified that over the course of eight years, ComEd paid Doherty's subcontractors hundreds of thousands of dollars, even though they had no particular expertise and ultimately did virtually no work for the utility. Some seemed to be downright incompetent, Marquez said.

"I know that they were brought on as a favor to Michael Madigan," Marquez testified Tuesday. "For Madigan to see ComEd positively. So that he could perhaps be helpful for our legislative agenda in Springfield."

Marquez returned to talking about how putting Ochoa on ComEd's board was another example of trying to please Madigan, saying Pramaggiore first called in 2018 when McClain requested considering him "for one of our open positions on the board."

Marquez said he, Dominguez, and Ochoa met for a "get-to-know-you" dinner at III Forks restaurant in Chicago in September 2018. The dinner was arranged by Pramaggiore, who by then was at Exelon, Marquez said.

Once word got out that Ochoa was getting lined up for the $78,000-a-year board job, however, Marquez said reaction was "very negative."

"Juan Ochoa, especially within the Latino committee at large, wasn't well liked and well respected ... the opinions stemmed from that," Marquez said.

Marquez also testified extensively about an alleged scheme by Madigan, through McClain, to repeatedly and aggressively push to place students in ComEd's summer internship program who had previously worked in the 13th Ward headquarters doing jobs like shoveling snow and took on other menial tasks.

Marquez said ComEd typically hired 100 to 150 interns each year, mostly university students studying math, science, or engineering and set minimum grade point averages to qualify.

Marquez described how Madigan had his own internship pipeline, and McClain worked hard to get 10 or more internships set aside for the 13th Ward as a "favor" to Madigan. "Because we wanted to stay in a favorable light with Michael Madigan, a favorable light for our legislative agenda," Marquez said.

Marquez testified "occasionally" one of the 13th Ward candidates didn't meet GPA requirements but Marquez would waive them. One of the interns Madigan sent had a GPA of 1.1, according to emails shown to the jury.

Hearing she didn't make the cut, McClain, who hadn't been notified of the student's grades, wrote, "Boy, we are playing harder than we have in the past."

When Marquez told him about the low GPA, McClain wrote back, "Holy mackerel, even mine were higher than that number!"

Prosecutors also presented evidence — mostly in emails — that showed how the McClain-Madigan-ComEd job train included hiring a disbarred lawyer to seeking jobs for the sons of Tom Donovan, once Richard J. Daley's top aide, who later ran the Chicago Board of Trade.

Other requests illustrated the closeness of the McClain and Madigan's family — as well as the pettiness of some of the requests made to Marquez. In one instance in 2012, Madigan's daughter, Nicole, even emailed McClain about a power outage.

"F.Y.I. Dad asks that I send this email to you. Tiffany's power went out," she wrote.

McClain forwarded the email to Marquez. Later that day, he emailed Nicole back with good news:

"Power is back on. Fidel Marquez dropped and did... Enjoy."

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Defendant Michael McClain, center, exits the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse for the day during the ongoing "ComEd Four" trial on Tuesday. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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$3M bail set for CTA employee charged in fatal beating

By Adriana Perez
Chicago Tribune

A $3 million bail was set Tuesday for a Chicago Transit Authority employee charged with aggravated battery in the beating of a 54-year-old man at a Blue Line station who later died. The attack, prosecutors said, lasted nearly an hour and was captured entirely on surveillance video.

"We hear things in this building every day of violent nature," Cook County Judge Barbara Dawkins said at the bond hearing. "But this shocks the conscience — throwing a person over a railing ... kicking him without provocation, grabbing him by the hood, dragging him — the list goes on and on."

CTA customer service assistant Emmett Richardson, 39, of the Douglas neighborhood on the South Side, had been a CTA employee for a little over two years at the time of the attack at the LaSalle Blue Line station Saturday. Transit agency records show an employee by the name of Emmet Richardson.

At the bond hearing Tuesday, prosecutors said that at approximately 2:05 a.m. Saturday, the 54-year-old man arrived at the train station in 150 W. Congress Parkway. He was pushing a wheelchair with property, stumbling around and sometimes on the ground on the platform until 3:17 a.m. At that time, video surveillance captured the man apparently sleeping with his legs on the ground and his torso resting on the seat of the wheelchair. It was then that prosecutors said Richardson arrived and engaged with the man "in a violent manner."

"At no point is the victim seen trying to defend himself or, more significantly, engage with the defendant," Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto said at the bond hearing. "The defendant can be observed kicking the wheelchair multiple times, causing the victim to completely fall to the floor."

Richardson then went up the elevator and back down. He then allegedly shoved the 54-year-old onto the escalator and followed him up to the mezzanine area. Once there, Richardson allegedly tried to pull the man by his foot but lost his balance and almost fell.

Prosecutors said that at that point, Richardson "became even more visibly irate." "He rushed at the victim, yanking and pushing him over the railing at the top of the escalator, causing the victim to land on his back," Scaduto said. "The defendant is then seen on the video surveillance grabbing the victim by his hood."

Richardson "violently" yanked the hood of the man's jacket, prosecutors said, dragging him across the floor and toward the top of an 11-step stairwell. He then allegedly pushed the man down the stairs. Richardson then kept leaving and coming back, on two occasions, prosecutors said, pouring bottles of water on the man lying at the bottom of the stairs.

Scaduto said Richardson then propped the man up against the railing into a seated position and struck him in the head and face multiple times. Richardson then allegedly pulled the man by his foot, causing him to fall down a second flight of stairs. At that point, prosecutors said, the man was completely motionless.

During the next several minutes, prosecutors said, Richardson left and came back multiple times, repositioning the other man's body.

An unidentified woman then arrived and spoke with Richardson briefly, though surveillance video did not capture audio of their conversation, prosecutors said. In the video, Richardson can be seen gesturing toward the stairwell, at which point the woman walked over and peered below to where the man was lying motionless. She then left the mezzanine area, and was not present at the scene when officers with the Chicago Police Department arrived.

Richardson then called 911 to report an unresponsive but breathing man at the bottom of a stairwell at the station. The Chicago Fire Department located the man's body upon arrival. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Cook County medical examiner's office has not publicly identified the man because his next of kin have yet to be notified of his death. The office had also not revealed the cause of the man's death, citing pending toxicology studies.

Police officers on scene spoke with Richardson, who identified himself by name and said that at about 3:40 a.m., he had been doing a platform track check when he saw the man sitting on a wheelchair, surrounded by drug paraphernalia. Prosecutors noted no drug paraphernalia was observed on video or found when police arrived.

Prosecutors said Richardson claimed the man had overdosed and did not say he touched or attacked the victim. He told officers he was assisting the man up the stairs when he lost consciousness and collapsed.A witness, a customer service manager for the CTA, who has known Richardson for 10 months told authorities they have issued him a couple of verbal warnings for his treatment of customers and attitude issues, prosecutors said. The witness identified Richardson in the surveillance video.

Richardson's attorney said he is a lifelong resident of Cook County, regularly volunteers in his community and neighborhood doing food drives for homeless people.

"I can't ignore that at 3:15 this man is on video, alive (and) at 4:30 a.m., he was pronounced dead," the judge said. "I don't think it takes a rocket scientist to figure out how he died."

The judge set the next court date for April 5 at the Skokie Courthouse.

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Donors

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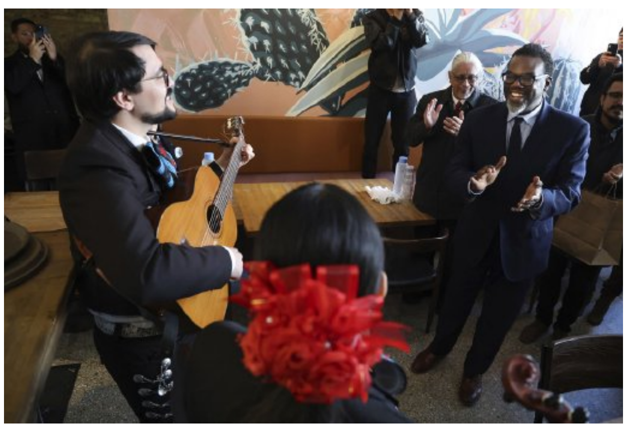

Chicago mayoral candidate Brandon Johnson, right, is serenaded by the band Mariachi Estrellas de Chicago at Pochos on Monday. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Mayoral candidate Paul Vallas attends a Southwest Environmental Alliance mayoral forum at Lincoln United Methodist Church on Monday. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

for Illinois' largest school district: contract negotiations with the teachers union in 2024; coping with enrollment loss as a moratorium on school closings ends in 2025; and for the last time, appointing school board members ahead of a transition to elected school board representation.

More than $5.4 million of the $9.8 million that Johnson has reported raising since the start of his campaign last year came from political funds controlled by teachers unions, including CTU as well as the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers, campaign finance records show. Another nearly $3.4 million comes from various funds affiliated with the Service Employees International Union.

Union members can offer considerable political muscle during the campaign, and the mayor holds substantial sway over citywide labor policy as well as bargaining over contracts for organized workers across city agencies like schools, parks and airports. SEIU, in particular, has members who work for hospitals and other health care agencies, as well as members who work directly for the city, its schools, airports and sister agencies, including maintenance and janitorial workers.

Vallas, meanwhile, is getting significant campaign help from leaders in Chicago's business community, some of whom live in the suburbs.

Several industry groups endorsed Vallas earlier this month, citing concerns over crime, property taxes and the impact Johnson's tax proposals would have on the city's economy, with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce CEO Jack Lavin saying in a statement, "We cannot afford leadership that supports higher taxes and is not committed to keeping our businesses open and our streets safe."

But many of those business contributors are also big supporters of school choice, which Vallas has been a strong proponent of. A little more than a year ago, in a Tribune op-ed, Vallas called for directing the Chicago Board of Education to use surplus tax increment financing dollars "to provide tuition support for families whose children attend or wish to attend private schools."

He also applauded the state's extension of its Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program through the end of 2023. Signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2017, the program offers tax credits to those who contribute to Scholarship Granting Organizations, which then give tuition help to students whose families meet certain income requirements to attend private or technical schools.

One of Vallas' biggest donors is James N. Perry Jr., the chairman of Empower Illinois, who helped lead the charge for Invest in Kids. Perry and his wife also have been major fundraisers for the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, whose schools many Invest in Kids scholarship recipients attend. Perry, a managing director at Chicago investment firm Madison Dearborn Partners, has given Vallas' campaign $400,000. A trust in Perry's name has given another $250,000.

Empower is one of the largest Scholarship Granting Organizations in Illinois, receiving roughly three-fourths of all contributions — 4,000 totaling $51 million — for the current school year, according to Invest in Kids' annual report.

Under the program, individuals and businesses can give Scholarship Granting Organizations up to $1 million and receive a 75% income tax credit. A $1 million donation, for example, garners a $750,000 income tax credit. The state can issue up to $75 million in credits annually, essentially meaning the state doesn't collect that money.

The CTU and others opposed the program, arguing it created a publicly funded private school voucher plan and served as "a tax shelter that will benefit big corporations and billionaire patrons."

Close behind in contributions to Vallas is John Canning, Madison Dearborn's chairman and a trustee of the second-largest Scholarship Granting Organization, the Big Shoulders Fund. Canning, of Inverness, has given Vallas $200,000.

The Big Shoulders Fund and Empower have doled out more than 9,000 scholarships, 94% of those awarded through the Invest in Kids program this year.

Others tied to the Big Shoulders Fund include BSF trustee Gerald Beeson of Orland Park, who is the chief operating officer at the Citadel hedge fund, and BSF board members Timothy Sullivan, Wilmette, of Madison Dearborn and Chicagoan James Hoeg of Alyeska Investment Group, who collectively gave Vallas $800,000.

Another Vallas contributor is John Buck, Chicago, CEO of The John Buck Company development firm who pushed for the Invest in Kids program and is now an emeritus board member of both Empower and BSF. He gave Vallas $100,000.

The Tribune identified another half-dozen BSF or Empower board members who gave Vallas between $1,000 and $10,000.

Paul Finnegan, Madison Dearborn's co-CEO, also gave Vallas $400,000. Finnegan of Evanston is a board member of Teach For America in Chicago. Teach for America over the past decade has been funded by school choice advocates.

Vallas also has been a proponent of charter schools, expanding them in Chicago and in other school districts he's led, and he's received significant financial support from charter school advocates for his campaign.

While he has not made charters central to his mayoral campaign and recently said he thinks the current number of charters operating within CPS is sufficient, Vallas has called for lifting current enrollment caps on high-performing charters and empowering communities "to invite public charters to locate in empty or near empty buildings conditional that they serve neighborhood children," according to his education platform.

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools' super PAC, INCS Action Independent Committee, has so far spent $617,000 on digital and cable advertisements opposing Johnson during the runoff campaign, campaign finance records show.

Andrew Broy, INCS president and the super PAC's treasurer, previously told the Tribune that Johnson's budget plans "would do substantial damage to the city's economic climate" and that Vallas is "clearly better on charters, on a range of public issues we care about."

The largest contributors to the INCS super PAC are Alice Walton and James Walton — siblings and heirs to the Walmart fortune who have given nearly $7 million in recent years — and James Frank, a Winnetka resident and founder of the automotive fleet leasing and management company Wheels Inc. based in Des Plaines. Frank is a member of INCS' board and the chairman of the charter network Intrinsic Schools. He recently reported giving $800,000 more to the INCS super PAC, bringing his total donations to INCS' political committees to $4.7 million over the years. Frank has given $225,000 to Vallas directly.

David Chizewer, an attorney with Goldberg Kohn and also a member of the INCS board, gave Vallas $1,000. Chizewer told WBEZ: "What's important to me is that we don't have someone in office who is biased against charters, or who is going to make decisions about schools based on their own political beliefs, or political power."

Chicago-based golf course entrepreneur Michael Keiser has given $183,600 to INCS' political committees and even more — $700,000 — to Vallas. His wife, Rosalind, gave Vallas another $200,000. The Noble Network of Charter Schools listed Keiser as one of its top donors in 2017.

Separately, Keiser is a lead backer of building a controversial 18-hole Tiger Woods-designed golf course along the South Side lakefront on the footprint of two Chicago Park District-owned courses just south of the Obama Presidential Center site. The project has been stalled during Mayor Lori Lightfoot's administration.

Donald Wilson, founder of the Chicago-based trading firm DRW and a longtime backer of former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, is another charter proponent who has donated to INCS' political causes and to Vallas: $25,000 to INCS' super PAC and $350,000 to Vallas. Wilson is also a Noble Charter Schools donor: DRW College Prep in Homan Square is named for his company.

Another super PAC, Illinois Federation for Children, recently reported spending nearly $60,000 on digital ads supporting Vallas. On its website, the group says it fights "for the rights of students and families against the entrenched education bureaucracy's stranglehold on education policy in Illinois" and that all students deserve "the same opportunities to seek the education that is best for them — not the one that's best for school district bureaucracies or teachers' unions."

James Walton is among its donors but the vast majority of the group's funding comes from the American Federation for Children's Action Fund Inc., a Texas-based group that supports school choice politicians in several states.

Similar to their takes on education, the two candidates also have widely differing visions on taxes and the city budget.

Johnson has repeatedly said Chicago has plenty of wealth to help lift its poorest residents out of poverty. He has proposed raising various taxes: on high-value real estate sales to create a dedicated funding stream for homeless services, on certain financial transactions, and per-employee for large businesses in the city.

Vallas has argued Johnson's proposed measures would destroy the local economy, and contributors from the investment, finance and real estate industries have donated heavily to him.

Vallas' labor contributions are mostly from trade unions that have typically backed pro-development candidates. He's received $500,000 from the Chicago Land Operators Joint Labor-Management PAC, $400,000 from the LiUNA Chicago Laborers' District Council PAC, and a combined $500,000 from committees representing union laborers, electricians, and engineers.

Johnson has used their differences to drive home questions about Vallas' Democratic bona fides because he takes campaign cash from individuals who also have given to Republicans. Among the contributors Johnson has highlighted: Keiser and the Gidwitz family, who have also given to former President Donald Trump and other Republican candidates running for office across Illinois.

Scott, Ron and James Gidwitz have given Vallas just over $55,000. Ron Gidwitz, a longtime Republican whom Trump appointed ambassador to Belgium, told the Tribune in 2006 that he and Vallas became friends when Gidwitz ran the Illinois State Board of Education and Vallas headed CPS.

Though he has not donated to him, Republican megadonor Ken Griffin, the founder of Citadel, has voiced support for Vallas' mayoral bid. Employees of his firm have together given Vallas more than $800,000. Griffin cited violence in Chicago as a reason for moving the hedge fund's headquarters from Chicago to Miami.

Previously asked by the Tribune why Republicans contributed to his campaign, Vallas said, "Because the city's in trouble (and) crime is out of control."

Vallas also pointed out many of those same contributors have also given to Democrats. Madison Dearborn Partners' Canning, for example, contributed to Lightfoot, Emanuel, and former House Speaker Mike Madigan.

A major donor to Republican causes, Craig Duchossois, has given $760,000 to Vallas, and was a major supporter of Richard Irvin's gubernatorial run in 2022 and in opposing Gov. J.B. Pritzker's graduated income tax. On the campaign trail, Johnson has expressed support for another attempt at instituting a statewide progressive income tax. Duchossois was also a supporter of Emanuel.

Aside from the more than $2.4 million Vallas has gotten from employees of Citadel and Madison Dearborn Partners, he's also received more than $1 million combined from employees of investment and financial firms Linden Capital Partners, Delaware Street Capital and Endurance Asset Management.

Joe Mansueto, the founder of investment research firm Morningstar and owner of the Chicago Fire soccer team, recently gave Vallas $250,000.

Since the start of the election, super PACs have spent about $1.3 million either supporting Vallas or opposing Johnson. Known officially as independent expenditure committees, super PACs and the candidates they support are barred from coordinating with each other but can raise and spend unlimited funds.

The vast majority of the super PAC spending — $1 million — has been since March 1. Aside from the more than $600,000 spent by INCS and Illinois Federation for Children, a new group established March 10 called Priorities Chicago has spent $320,000 opposing Johnson. It has received funding where the source is unknown or heavily obscured, also known as dark money.

Priorities Chicago PAC received $170,000 from an entity involved in the first wave of the mayoral election, Better Chicago Future Inc., and $275,000 from Priorities Chicago, an entity that shares the same Chicago-based address as the PAC.

Priorities Chicago is led by Chicago-based Resolute Public Affairs founder Greg Goldner. Goldner was long tied to Emanuel. A separate super PAC, New Leadership for Chicago, was also backed by Resolute. It spent more than $380,000 supporting U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García's failed bid in the first round.

Another dark money group active in this year's race is the Chicago Leadership Committee, which spent $225,000 on television ads supporting Vallas in the first found. Though the fund still has $40,000 in the bank, according to state records, it hasn't spend money in the runoff. The fund faced questions about its independence from Vallas' campaign when state records showed the committee paid $165,000 to Mad River Communications, a Maryland-based firm registered under the name of Vallas campaign adviser Joe Trippi. Trippi previously told the Tribune he took a leave from the group when he signed on with Vallas in September.

That committee also received all its money from Better Chicago Future Inc., which shares the same Philadelphia-based P.O. box as the political committee it donated to. No super PACs have spent in support of Johnson or against Vallas.

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EDITORIALS

After the Nashville school shooting, US must do more than grieve. It must act.

Again, America grieves. Monday morning, an assailant wielding two assault-style weapons and a pistol gunned down three students, all age 9, and three adults at a small private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. It was the eighth mass killing at an American K-12 school since 2006, according to Associated Press, and the 130th mass shooting in the country this year.

If Americans are growing numb to the horrific regularity of mass shootings at schools, they shouldn't. No one with any sense of humanity should allow themselves to brand shootings at schools as simply the world we live in or the sad reality today. The attack at the Covenant School should do much more than evoke grief and empathy. It should shake Americans into action.

There's still much to learn about the shooter. Audrey Elizabeth Hale, 28 and transgender, once attended Covenant and may have, as Metropolitan Nashville police Chief John Drake told reporters, harbored "some resentment for having to go to that school." Still unknown is whether Hale had exhibited any behavior to warrant scrutiny that could have helped prevent the attack, though there are reports that the Hale was under doctor care for an emotional disorder.

But one thing police say they do know: Hale legally obtained two of the firearms brought to the school. That's where everyday Americans come in.

GUN SENSE VOTER
Such things FREEDOM
Protect KIDS
NOT GUNS

Lauren Giesler holds a sign with photos of her daughters as she joins other mothers at a rally at the state Capitol on Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee, the day after a shooting at a Christian elementary school in the city. **JOHN AMIS/AP**

It is past time for any citizen to countenance voting for a lawmaker, whether at the state or federal level, who refuses to support a ban on assault-style rifles. Such a ban isn't an end-all solution. But it would take off the streets a weapon that has become synonymous with America's mass shootings epidemic.

Assault-style rifles are built for mass killing. An AR-15 bullet wields three times more speed and energy than a round from a handgun. Together with high-capacity magazines, assault-style rifles serve the sole purpose of inflicting mass carnage.

We have written many times about the scripted argument Republican legislators make after every mass shooting: It's not the gun, it's all about the person brandishing it. And, yes, clearly guns do not fire themselves.

But how many mass shootings, how much bloodshed at schools, will it take for Americans to realize this crisis should be tackled solely with a nonpartisan approach? After the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans collectively rallied against the threat of terrorism. The scourge of mass shootings shouldn't be treated any differently.

We know that America has been here before, many times. The 2012 massacre of 20 students and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, horrified the nation — and Congress' response was far from robust enough. After 17 students and teachers were gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018, surviving students spoke out for stricter gun laws and inspired thousands of high school students across the country to back their cause with protests. More school shootings followed.

Will Covenant mark a tipping point? It should. But only if Americans do more than just grieve.

Industry needs government to step up in battle against climate change

Psst, here's a hot tip from the commodity markets. Now would be a good time to get into copper.

That's right, copper. The industrial metal used in batteries is expected to experience strong demand as vehicles go electric. For those with the money and expertise to develop copper mines, especially in stable countries, such as the U.S. and Canada, a business opportunity awaits.

But it takes at least a decade to bring a new mine online. And let's face it, no one wants one in their backyard. Mining creates pollution that needs to be mitigated. Banks these days are wary of financing new projects likely to be declared "dirty" and targeted for protests. Plus, rising interest rates have raised the cost of the capital needed for such long-term investments.

And while copper demand is currently expected to increase as much as fivefold by 2050, innovations could change the outlook. Anyone running a copper mine needs to consider the possibility of a breakthrough technology that makes the commodity irrelevant. Witness the latest advances in lithium battery technology brought about in part by Illinois-based scientists.

On second thought, maybe copper is not such a good idea, at least for those angling to produce the metal.

A similar line of thinking is making it tough for many companies in the commodity business to justify big capital investments. Climate change is happening, and the world is slowly coming to grips with the measures necessary to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Yet unless U.S. policymakers step up their game, the future looks shaky for some basic building blocks of the economy. Adapting to a carbon-free world is going slowly in industries ranging from agriculture and energy to mining and finance.

The Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law threw a ton of money into the pot. But to head off shortages of basics, more needs to be done. A stronger regulatory framework is needed to clear the way for the big projects that can help American industry prepare for a future with reduced emissions.

Consider carbon trading. In Europe, a government-organized marketplace enables hedgers and speculators to set a price for carbon emissions.

The U.S., on the other hand, has stubbornly rebelled against a market-based approach, which incidentally is tailor-made for a city like Chicago with deep roots in commodity trading. Using financial markets to establish an accurate price for each ton of carbon emitted would provide an important tool to manage the risks associated with air pollution.

Today's divisive national politics make progress difficult. The prospect of charging polluters a so-called carbon tax is a no-go for the same crowd on the right that demonizes corporate ESG programs aimed at curbing emissions (and promoting diversity).

At the same time, environmentalists on the left keep demanding big changes that industry isn't prepared to make. Fossil fuels will be needed for years to come, and the related infrastructure must be maintained to supply power, heat and motor fuel.

What might help encourage these long-term, big-ticket investments?

Along with championing a global trading system for carbon emissions, the U.S. could provide financing for projects that advance green goals even if they're dirty, and create a Superfund-type mechanism to handle the mines, refineries, pipelines and other long-lived assets that are at risk of becoming obsolete as the world decarbonizes.

Another big plus would be a framework for measuring emissions at the corporate level. Thousands of companies have made "net zero" commitments, for instance, promising to eliminate their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. But as it stands, companies hire self-declared consultants to validate their claims in exchange for fees. More reliable and consistent standards are needed.

As leadership at the national level is in short supply, Illinois and other states can help to fill the gap.

California and Washington, for instance, are pioneers in carbon trading, having organized markets for companies operating within their borders. Seven Midwest states, including Illinois, recently partnered to advance the use of hydrogen as a fuel.

The Illinois Finance Authority's Climate Bank last year directed about $250 million in private capital to green projects, and also manages a big chunk of federal money pushed down to the states through the recent legislation.

Let's hope the bottom-up approach can make progress where top-down has faltered. Otherwise, don't be surprised if copper and other basics that most people take for granted suddenly are in short supply.

ABOUT A GOP TRANSGENDER BILL

Republican lawmakers across the nation have introduced more than 400 bills to restrict the rights of LGBTQ people in the current legislative cycle, according to Human Rights Watch. One of them is Assembly Bill 1314, an odious proposal by California Assembly members Bill Essayli, R-Corona, and James Gallagher, R-Yuba City, to compel teachers, counselors and other school staff to notify parents if their kid is transgender.

Apparently the state's Republicans aren't quite as concerned with privacy as they pretend.

Under the bill, notification would be triggered if any school employee finds out that a student is identifying as a gender other than what is on official school records or if a student participates in a sex-segregated school program or athletic team or uses facilities that don't align with the student's official gender. Converting school staff into the gender police will do nothing to improve education and add yet another task to already overworked schoolteachers and other staff.

The bill runs also counter to California's anti-discrimination laws intended to protect LGBTQ students, which prohibits schools from disclosing a student's transgender identity, even to parents, without consent.

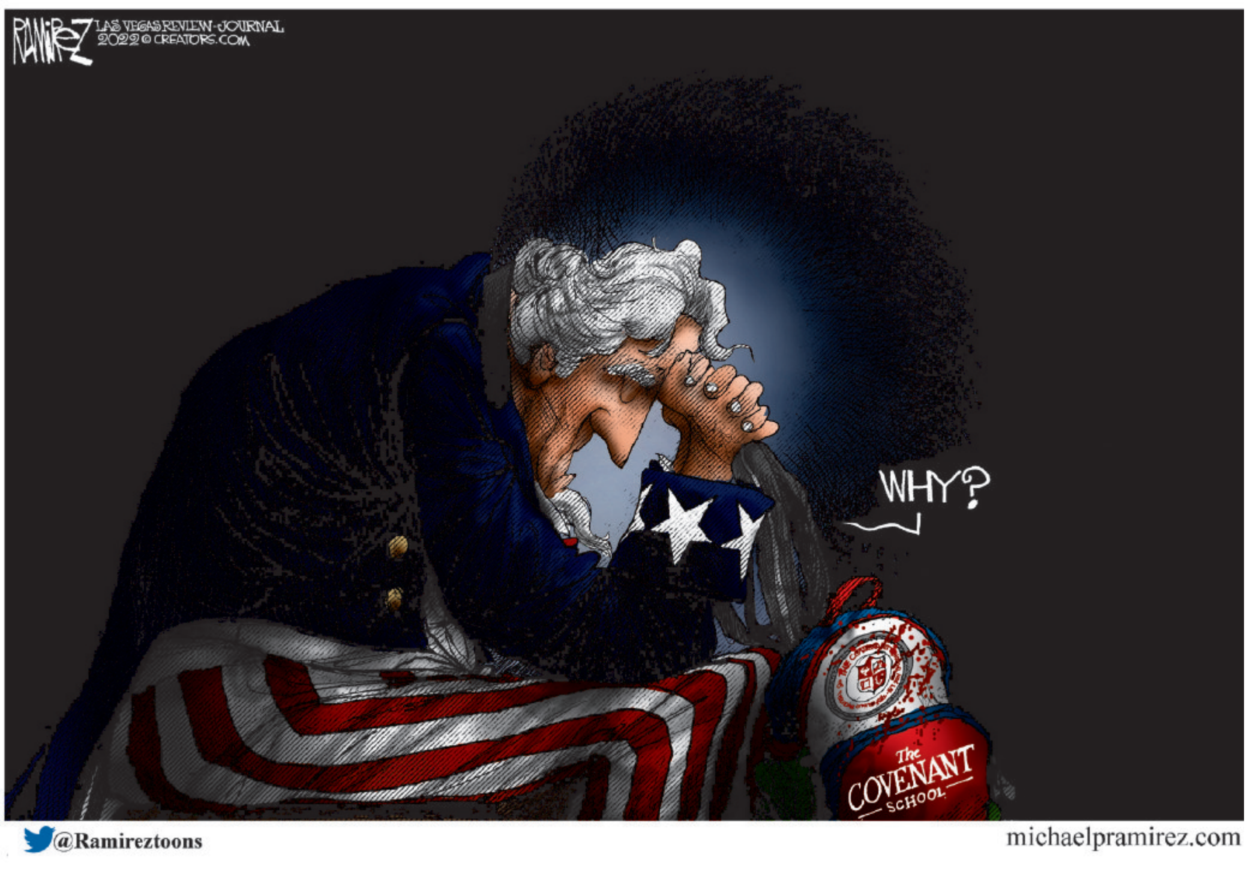
...

Students should have the freedom to decide to reveal their gender identity when they feel that they are in a supportive environment and not one that will trigger negative repercussions.

Shame on these California legislators for pushing a mean-spirited bill to score political points from their conservative constituency. Laws intended to punish students who express gender nonconforming behavior have no place in California or elsewhere.

Los Angeles Times Editorial Board

EDITORIAL CARTOON



MICHAEL RAMIREZ/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

OPINION

A person walks past archways at Stanford University on March 9, 2020, in Stanford, California. **PHILIP PACHECO/GETTY**

Listen well to those with whom you disagree, so you can make better arguments

Clarence Page

One might think that in college programs which promote DEI — diversity, equity and inclusion — "diversity" should include diversification of social and political viewpoints.

Unfortunately, as you already may know if you've been following campus news, some students and their faculty allies seem to think diversity is fine as long as it is limited to those who agree with them.

Or, as Bob Dylan sang, "It ain't no use a-talking to me; It's just the same as talking to you."

That was back in the olden days known better as the 1960s, when I was a college student and marches, sit-ins, walkouts and other disruptive civil protests usually came from the political left.

Today I have been more likely to read about their coming from the right. That's to be expected in what a campus is supposed to be, an arena for robust but — one hopes — civil debate. But, just as we saw in the '60s, civility sometimes is no simple matter to maintain.

One conservative student group in particular, the Federalist Society, a prestigious conservative legal organization with campus chapters nationwide, has a reputation for inviting conservative speakers to campus, almost inviting hot heads on the left to be triggered — and too many too easily fall for it.

At least two such protests of conservative speakers made headlines at law schools last year at Yale Law School and the University of California's Hastings College of the Law, where speakers were shouted down by students chanting, clapping and banging on desks.

But that hardly matched the headlines and commentaries unleashed at Stanford Law School earlier this month. The school's Federalist chapter invited 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Kyle Duncan, a Trump-appointed conservative.

Known for his previous advocacy against LGBTQ+ rights and for his rulings, including a 2020 case in which he refused to call a transgender woman by the female pronoun, he was heckled and shouted down as soon as he entered the classroom, walking past dozens of students massed outside, some in face paint and waving signs.

"As I entered the classroom, one protester reportedly screamed: "We hope your daughters get raped!" Duncan recalled in a later Wall Street Journal op-ed about the event. "You are an appalling idiot," was his reported response, which sounds injudicious to me, although also about right for the offense.

Another layer of controversy came after Duncan asked for help from Stanford administrators who were present on the sidelines. Tirien Steinbach, Stanford Law School's associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, stepped up and — apparently reading from prepared remarks — offered a suitable call for civility and free speech, but, alas, didn't stop there.

"Is the juice worth the squeeze?" she asked oddly but memorably. "I mean, is it worth the pain that this causes and the division that this causes?"

"Do you have something so incredibly important to say … that is worth this impact on the division of these people who have sat next to each other for years, who are going through what is the battle of law school together, so that they can go out into the world and be advocates …?" And this is the division it's caused. When I say 'Is the juice worth the squeeze?' That's what I'm asking. Is this worth it?"

Well, unlike Steinbach, I'm not a lawyer, but it seemed to me that Duncan obviously felt he had something important, "incredibly" or not, to say or he would not have been trying so hard to say it. Law schools are supposed to be places where controversial propositions are argued and, one hopes, resolved, but, at the very least, not shouted down.

I disagree with Duncan's right-wing positions, but they're valid and carry a lot of legal weight. The best way to push back against objectionable speech, as an old civil libertarian slogan goes, is with more speech — also known in legal circles as "counter-speech."

If law students at Stanford think they only have to be well-versed in positions with which they agree, they're asking for a hopelessly one-sided legal education.

As I learned in my high school debate team days, you can formulate much better arguments if you take the time to learn what you're arguing against.

Stanford officials appear to agree. Steinbach has been placed on leave and Stanford's president, Marc Tessier-Lavigne, and its law school dean, Jenny Martinez, have apologized to Duncan. Martinez also announced a mandatory half-day session on freedom of speech for all law students.

Be not dismayed, students. It's not a punishment, as my parents would say. It's for your own good.

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Bail reform the solution we need to bring about safety, justice

By Insha Rahman

After heated oral arguments on March 14, Illinois is waiting on a decision from the state Supreme Court on the future of the Pretrial Fairness Act. The law, if it goes into effect, will eliminate the long-standing money bail system to make safety — not wealth — the deciding factor in who is released and who stays in jail pending trial.

Opponents of progress have lobbed only scare tactics, not solutions, in a $40 million campaign launched last year during the midterm elections to undermine the Pretrial Fairness Act and its supporters. Determined to keep us stuck in the status quo, they argue that a system based on money and wealth is necessary to keep Illinois safe. Yet Illinoisans see through the scare tactics. A poll taken by public opinion research group Impact Research released after the November elections found that 60% of respondents had either a favorable or neutral view of bail reform.

Why does support for bail reform remain high despite the relentless attacks? It's not because people do not care about safety. Crime is a top concern for many Illinoisans. That's true across the country, as both fear of crime and fearmongering about crime have increased in recent years, the Pew Research Center reported in October. Support remains strong because people know that we urgently need change. And they know that the Pretrial Fairness Act and other bail reform measures across the country align with common sense on what makes communities safe and brings more justice to a system that has for too long failed to deliver on it.

We can look to other places that have not only passed bail reform, but also implemented it, to validate that support. Take New Jersey, for example. Bail reform went into effect in 2017 and functionally eliminated money bail, moving to a system akin to the Pretrial Fairness Act. In the first two years, pretrial incarceration rates fell by more than 20%, and violent crime dropped by more than 30%.

In New York, where bail reform has been much maligned because judges do not explicitly consider public safety in their pretrial decisions, unlike Illinois' new law, a recent study of the city's courts by the Data Collaborative for Justice found that eliminating money bail for many misdemeanor and nonviolent felony offenses still reduced recidivism — a win for public safety. A recent report by the Brennan Center for Justice examining jail incarceration and violent crime across dozens of jurisdictions that implemented bail reform found no correlation between fewer people in jail pretrial and any increase in violent crime.

The Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield is seen in November. **BRIAN CASSELLA/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Meanwhile, years of research show that money bail increases pretrial detention, which in turn decreases safety — one study found that any amount of time in jail makes a person more likely to be arrested again in the future.

Opponents of progress will continue their scare tactics by cherry-picking far less robust and reliable data. For example, a recent bail reform study out of Yolo County, California, relied on a sample size of only 100 cases from one small county, compared with the tens of thousands used to examine bail reform and crime rates in New Jersey and New York. Another frequently cited study concluding that bail reform increased crime in Cook County has been thoroughly debunked for misrepresenting and manipulating the data.

The evidence and facts show that bail reform works. In anticipation of the state Supreme Court's decision, now is the time for all those who work in our courts of law and halls of government to come together to successfully implement the law — by implementing the infrastructure for pretrial services in every county, comprehensive data collection, and sufficient training and resources for legal professionals.

Enough of the scare tactics. The Pretrial Fairness Act is exactly the solution the state needs to deliver safety and justice.

Insha Rahman is vice president of advocacy and partnerships at the Vera Institute of Justice, a national research and policy group.

OPINION

MAYOR
VALLAS FOR MAYOR
VALLAS ★ ★ FOR ★ ★ MAYOR

Ald. Sophia King, 4th, endorses mayoral candidate Paul Vallas at Vallas campaign headquarters on Tuesday in Chicago. SHANNA MADISON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

City needs collaborative leadership that will comprehensively tackle public safety

By Sophia King

Our city is at a pivotal crossroad. We are losing people and businesses as problems with crime, schools and underinvestment in communities mount. We are losing institutional knowledge from the executive branch as well as the legislative branch. The city needs leadership — someone who can bring us together. Someone who can build a team and put our city on a path to global greatness.

The city cannot take four more years of fighting and dissension while moving backward, or a mayor learning the office while leading it. We need someone with proven leadership skills and the ability to bring us together.

That is why I am supporting Paul Vallas for mayor of Chicago.

I did not come to this decision lightly. After much deliberation and several discussions with both candidates, I believe that Paul is the best candidate to significantly move our city forward.

Paul has the strongest plans to make our neighborhoods safe, secure jobs and community investment, shore up minority participation and bring trades back to schools.

As a leader of one of the most diverse communities in our city, it is clear to me that we need a mayor who will focus on collaboration. Paul has demonstrated a willingness to soundboard ideas and shift his approach with the counsel of those who have the best interests of our city's most vulnerable people at heart. .

It is important that the next mayor represent the entire city, build our neighborhoods and downtown, prepare our kids for college and the trades, and uplift our police and hold them accountable. And that he advocate for safety and justice. While I do not always agree with Paul, when I think about the strong tenets of our campaign, I think that Paul will more readily carry them out.

The No. 1 issue facing Chicago is public safety. Although crime has touched all of our communities, the harsh reality is that Black and brown communities are some of the least safe, and, I would argue counterintuitively, some of the most under-policed. Statistics and lawsuits show that police are not in the neighborhoods that need them the most, and that there is even more disparity in response times between these communities and their white counterparts. In addition, solving crime in these same communities is even less likely — emboldening criminals even further.

We have to take a comprehensive approach that includes not only our police but also a real commitment to violence intervention, alternative responses to 911 and significant youth engagement. That means using the police officers we have more effectively and equitably so that police can serve as a deterrent to crime. That also means filling the ranks with police who look more like the diversity that our city celebrates.

Paul is not only committed to more equitably distributing police, but he's also willing to adopt our plan for a workweek of four days on and three days off so that we can have more police in all of our communities and give police the predictability and rest that they deserve. Paul also shares my commitment to uplifting our officers and holding them accountable. And thus, he is equally committed to funding, implementing and enforcing the consent decree.

I am also excited that Paul will adopt our violence intervention plan, which will put hundreds of millions of dollars per year into gun violence prevention and give individuals at highest risk for gun violence an incentive to come into the formal economy.

The gun violence prevention efforts would scale up existing programs and introduce a model that focuses on balancing the need for individual accountability with financial and other incentives for help. There would be a community approach, including clergy, police, clinicians and other stakeholders to provide wraparound services to the individual and family. This would come with a responsibility for trauma-informed care and job training that will lead to jobs and self-sustainability.

If we effectively allocate violence intervention resources now, along with investments in Black and brown communities, and increase student engagement, especially after school, we should not be back here in 20 years.

There is precedent for this type of investment. We did it in the early 20th century when white immigrants were struggling and killing each other. Our social response to crime in white working-class immigrant communities was massive investment, the New Deal, housing, workers rights, economic security, Social Security, home security and police reform.

That's why I am elated that Paul wants investment on the South and West sides to be his legacy. I will hold him to that and his commitment to significantly increase minority participation in city contracts especially for African Americans, which is down under the current administration.

As a former teacher and educator, I commend Paul's commitment to making sure that we have strong neighborhood schools, uplifting and incentivizing teachers, and strong Chicago Public Schools leadership, working with a future elected school board and student engagement. In addition, I appreciate him talking to the trades and tech businesses about bringing apprenticeship programs and jobs of the future back to the schools.

While I am committed to helping our city and the next mayor no matter who wins, I am wholeheartedly supporting Paul Vallas.

Ald. Sophia King represents Chicago's 4th Ward and is chair of the City Council's Progressive Caucus.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Who is to blame?

Here we go yet again. March 27 was just another Monday in today's America when three 9-year-olds and three adults were slaughtered in another school shooting. The question is asked over and over again: Why do these mass shootings continue to occur, not only in our schools but also countless other venues?

We all know the answer to that question, and those who claim not to know are kidding themselves. Spoiler alert: It's guns. While it's very easy to blame the psychopaths who carry out these atrocities, the real blame should be aimed toward the spineless and gutless members of Congress and various state legislatures that continue to weaken existing gun laws and actually go out of their way to make it easier for many to own and carry a gun. When I say spineless and gutless congressmen, I'm referring to the Republicans and a handful of Democrats who continue to kowtow to the National Rifle Association.

There have always been people in this country determined to cause death and destruction. Why make it easier for them with such lax gun control? If one were to take it a step further, I would ask those who vote to elect, and reelect these ultra-pro-gun politicians, are you, too, not contributing to this epidemic of mass murder?

The next time one of these school shootings takes place, probably next week, I'm sickened to say, save your thoughts and prayers and instead vote these cowards out of office. To do otherwise would be to accept these atrocities as just another day in the good old USA.

— Tom Scorby, St. Charles

Our gun culture

Every American, and especially every politician, should have to wake up every day and look at the heartbreaking photo of the child in anguish on the school bus in Nashville, Tennessee, on the front page of the March 28 Tribune.

Our gun culture is out of control. We must ban assault-style weapons and pass common-sense gun laws for hunters. Let's not continue to add insult to injury to more children who survive these shootings and who are also victims. We adults must act now!

— Patty Wolfe, Mount Prospect

Photo says it all

How many more must die? The picture of a young girl crying on a school bus in Nashville says it all.

— John Corona, Niles

Guards in schools

Every time someone commits a shooting in a school, all the media outlets light up. The talk shows and radio shows give 100% attention to it immediately. The same discussions occur every single time. No one says anything new.

Here's a new idea: Put armed guards in schools. We have guards in our banks. Aren't our children as important to protect as our money? Giving media attention shows unstable people or would-be shooters that this is the way to get attention. Legal gun owners are not murderers. Obviously, certain assault-style weapons need to be outlawed or strictly legislated for ownership. But remember that lawbreakers will get a gun any way they can.

Put guards in schools. There is no doubt about it; there would be fewer shooters in the news.

— Cecile Bolton, Westchester

Results of inaction

"When will this end?" This time the question was asked in front of a school in Nashville, Tennessee. Where will the next mass shooting occur?

Unfortunately, it is inevitable. Until the one party in Congress that refuses to create serious gun control steps up to the plate, it will continue.

— Bill O'Connor, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Terrible status quo

To those who say none of the suggested gun control measures will work and they won't stop all of these shootings: Bulletin! What we're doing or not doing ain't working.

— Bill Burns, South Elgin

Bipartisan effort

If I hear one more elected official say that it is not the guns that are the problem, it is the shooter, and that mental health programs are needed rather than smart, common-sense gun reform laws, I will get sick to my stomach. Perhaps it is actually our elected politicians who need a mental health checkup.

Any reasonable politician who touts the Second Amendment and remains loyal to the Founders' words knows in their heart that this amendment was written at a different time in our country when self-defense came from a musket rather than an assault-style rifle. In today's more dangerous world, we need leaders who are willing to work on a bipartisan basis to reinterpret the Second Amendment to better protect innocent Americans.

Rather than empty political rhetoric of thoughts and prayers, it is well past time to pass laws on background checks, elimination of assault-style weapons, gun buyback programs and age limits for purchasing weapons. Those laws, at a minimum, would start the process of ending this constant stream of senseless and preventable anguish that stains our news and our lives.

— Rick Weber, Northbrook

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Mourners attend a vigil for The Covenant School shooting victims Monday in Nashville.
DESIREE RIOS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Shooter

from Page 1

Hale legally bought seven firearms from five local gun stores, Drake said. Three of them were used in Monday's shooting.

Hale's parents believed their child had sold one gun and did not own any others, Drake said, adding that Hale "had been hiding several weapons within the house."

Hale's motive is unknown, Drake said. In an interview with NBC News on Monday, Drake said investigators don't know what drove Hale but believe the shooter had "some resentment for having to go to that school."

Drake described "several different writings by Hale" that mention other locations and The Covenant School.

Asked at a Senate hearing whether the Justice Department would open an investigation into whether the shooting was a hate crime targeting Christians, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said federal officials were working with local police to identify a motive.

Police have released videos of the shooting, including edited surveillance footage that shows the shooter's car driving up to the school, glass doors being shot out and the shooter ducking through one of them.

Additional video, from Officer Rex Engelbert's bodycam, shows a woman meeting police outside as they arrive and telling them that all the children were locked down, "but we have two kids that we don't know where they are."

The woman then directs officers to Fellowship Hall and says people inside had just heard gunshots. Three officers armed with rifles, including Engelbert, search rooms one by one.

The video shows officers climbing stairs to the second floor and entering a lobby area, followed by a barrage of gunfire and an officer yelling twice: "Get your hands away from the gun." Then the shooter is shown motionless on the floor.

Police identified Engelbert, a four-year member of the force, and Michael Collazo, a nine-year member, as the officers who fatally shot Hale.

Aaron said there were no police present or assigned to the school at the time of the shooting because it is a church-run school.

Surveillance video shows a time stamp of just before 10:11 a.m., when the attacker shot out the doors. Police said they got the call about a shooter at 10:13 a.m. The edited bodycam footage didn't include time stamps.

During the news conference, Drake did not answer a question directly about how many minutes it took police to arrive. At about 10:24 a.m., 11 minutes after the call was received, officers engaged the suspect, he said. "There were police cars that had been hit by gunfire. As officers were approaching the building, there was gunfire going off," Drake said.

Police have given unclear information on Hale's gender. For hours Monday, police identified the shooter as a woman. Later in the day, the police chief said Hale was transgender. After the news conference, Aaron declined to elaborate on how Hale identified.

In an email Tuesday, police spokesperson Kristin Mumford said Hale "was assigned female at birth. Hale did use male pronouns on a social media profile." Later Tuesday, at the news conference, Drake referred to Hale with female pronouns.

Authorities identified the dead children as Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs and William Kinney. The adults were Cynthia Peak, 61, Katherine Koonce, 60, and Mike Hill, 61.The website of The Covenant School, a Presbyterian school founded in 2001, lists a Katherine Koonce as the head of the school. Her LinkedIn profile says she has led the school since July 2016. Peak was a substitute teacher, and Hill was a custodian, according to investigators.

Koonce was remembered as someone who would run toward danger, not away from it.

"I guarantee you if there were kids missing (during the shooting), Katherine was looking for them," friend Jackie Bailey said. "And that's probably how she got in the way — just trying to do something for somebody else. She would give up her own life in order to save somebody else's."

Founded as a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church, the school is in the affluent Green Hills neighborhood just south of downtown Nashville. It has about 200 students from preschool through sixth grade and roughly 50 staff members.

President Joe Biden said he had spoken to the police chief, mayor and senators in Tennessee. He pleaded with Congress to pass stronger gun safety laws, including a ban on "assault weapons."

"The Congress has to act," Biden said. "The majority of the American people think having assault weapons is bizarre, it's a crazy idea. They're against that."

Before Monday's violence in Nashville, there had been seven mass killings at K-12 schools since 2006 in which four or more people were killed within a 24-hour period, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. In all of them, the shooters were males.

The database does not include school shootings in which fewer than four people were killed, which have become far more common in recent years. Just last week alone, for example, school shootings happened in Denver and the Dallas area within two days of each other.

Meanwhile in Washington, President Joe Biden admitted he was powerless to curb the scourge of mass shootings in the nation.

"I have gone the full extent of my executive authority to do, on my own, anything about guns," Biden told reporters.

"The Congress has to act," the president said. "The majority of the American people think having assault weapons is bizarre; it's a crazy idea. They're against that. And so, I think the Congress should be passing the assault weapons ban."

To be clear, he said, "I can't do anything except plead with the Congress to act reasonably."

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 29 ...

In 1962 Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time.

In 1973 the last U.S. combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1974 eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The guardsmen were later acquitted.)

In 1992 Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton acknowledged experimenting with marijuana "a time or two" while attending Oxford University, adding, "I didn't inhale and I didn't try it again."

In 1994 Mexico's ruling party picked Ernesto Zedillo to be its new presidential candidate, replacing the assassinated Luis Donaldo Colosio.

In 1995 the House of Representatives rejected, 227-204, a constitutional amendment placing term limits on lawmakers. (The rejected proposal would have limited terms to 12 years in the House and Senate.)

In 1996 Congress passed, and President Bill Clinton quickly signed, a 12th stopgap spending bill to avert a partial federal shutdown.

In 1998 the Lady Vols of Tennessee won a third straight NCAA basketball championship, defeating Louisiana Tech 93-75.

In 1999 the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 10,000 for the first time, ending the day at 10,006.78.

In 2001 James Kopp, the fugitive wanted in the 1998 slaying of Dr. Barnett Slepian, a Buffalo, N.Y., abortion provider, was captured in France. (Kopp was convicted in 2003 of killing Slepian and is serving a sentence of 25 years to life.)

In 2002 Israel declared Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat an enemy and sent tanks and armored personnel carriers to fully isolate him in his Ramallah, West Bank, headquarters.

In 2003 a Turkish man who had hijacked a Turkish Airlines flight the day before was persuaded by Turkey's prime minister to release his 204 hostages after the plane landed in Athens.

Lottery numbers

For yesterday's numbers and recent drawings, go to chicagotribune.com/lottery or use your mobile device to scan the code above.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Adamski, Alan James 'Al'

Alan "Al" James Adamski, age 76, longtime resident of Downers Grove, formerly of Chicago, passed away March 24. He was a retired Chicago policeman and later Whittier School crossing guard. Al is survived by his loving family: wife Lois, nee Rateike, Adamski; son, Alan Jr. (Michelle) Adamski; daughter, Terri (Ivan) Matsunaga; daughter, JoAnn Adamski; brothers: Bill (Donna) and Rich (Rose) Adamski; sister-in-law, Edie Adamski; Dzia Dzia to four grandchildren: Madilyn, William, Tyler, and Matthew; also many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Casimir and Helen, nee Kokes, Adamski; and brother Tom Adamski.

Visitation Saturday, April 1st, 9:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Service, 11:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515. Interment Clarendon Hills Cemetery. Arrangements by **Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home**. Information: 630-968-1000 or www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com.

Adams Winterfield & Sullivan
Funeral home and cremation services

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Alberico, Emelia

Emelia Alberico (nee Leone), age 97, of Munster, IN passed away on March 27, 2023. Emelia epitomized 'a life well lived', and we remain grateful and blessed that she graced this place for nearly a century.

Born to John and Lucille Leone in 1925, Emelia grew up in Chicago. Emelia met the love of her life, Julius Alberico, and their love was one for the ages. They married in 1947. Their Alberico family grew with nine children.

Emelia & Julius moved to South Holland, IL and immersed themselves in neighborhood and parish life, both actively involved at St. Jude the Apostle Church. Lifelong friendships grew on Rose Drive, some lasting to this day. A gifted singer, Emelia participated in the St. Jude Players, as a singer in multiple church musical productions, and her singing filled the house.

Emelia lost her husband, Julius, on July 4, 1967. After which, she transformed herself into a working mother, breaking barriers as a woman in the insurance industry in the late 1960s. Working through any adversity, Emelia maintained Troy Insurance Agency, until her sons Marc and Michael could join her.

In 1996, Emelia accepted the role as the Executive Director of Beginning Experience, which had teams in multiple countries and participants across the globe.

Emelia was an avid and Master bridge player. She love pinochle, and spent many hilarious hours playing with her sons and grandsons. She was an avid reader, and the Alberico house was always filled with books.

Emelia was preceded in death by her parents, Lucille and John Leone, her husband Julius G. Alberico, Sr. (1967), and her sons Martin G. Alberico (2003) and Julius G. Alberico, Jr.(Pamela) (2013). She is survived by her children, Maryclare Trela (Timothy), Michele Burke (Alan), Monica Kotas (Philip), Marc Alberico (Mary Todd), Michael Alberico (Jeannie), Mario Alberico (Claudia), Martin Alberico and Marissa Rutkowski (Jon Bruce); grandchildren Lara Alberico, Julius (Tony) Alberico (Renee), Matthew Alberico (Maria), Gina McClory, Adrian Trela, Lauren Trela, Daniel Burke, Michael Burke (Maureen), David Kotas, John Kotas, Michele (Kotas) Georges (Nick), Jillian Alberico (Sara Marketos), Jane Alberico Bullon (Gonzalo), Mario Anthony Alberico, Gianni Alberico, Zak Rutkowski; great grandchildren Bill Pijarowski, Oliver Wells, Sophia Alberico, Julian Alberico, Lucia Alberico, Francesca Alberico, Elia Alberico, Cecilia Alberico, Dario Alberico, Liam Burke, Emelia Burke, Grace Burke, Maggie Burke.

Funeral arrangements: Saturday, April 1, 2023, St. Maria Goretti Church, Dyer, IN

Visitation: 9:00 am. Mass: 10:00 am, immediately followed by a luncheon at St. Maria Goretti Parish Hall. Private burial. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alberico Scholarship Foundation (https://albericoscholar.com/donate/), founded in memory of Martin Alberico and Julius G. Alberico, Jr. www.kishfuneralhome.net

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Bordenet, Evelyn Izzo

Evelyn Bordenet, née Izzo, age 91, of Arlington Heights. Beloved wife of the late Joseph W.; dear mother of Michael (Joanne), William (Ann), and Robert (Patricia); loving grandmother of Dr. Michelle, Kathryn, Olivia, Christina, Annalise, Nicholas, and Paul; fond sister of the late Joseph (Eleanor), Albert (Patricia), and Samuel Izzo. Visitation, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, from 4 to 9 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Funeral, Wednesday, April 5, at 9:15 a.m., from the funeral home, for Mass of Christian Burial, 9:30 a.m., at St. Peter Church of Ss. Peter & Lambert Catholic Parish, 8100 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Entombment, All Saints Catholic Cemetery Mausoleum, Des Plaines. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2200 Cabot Dr., Suite 460, Lisle, IL, 60532 (alz.org/illinois). Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook and to leave a condolence message.

HABEN
Funeral Home & Crematory

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Includes print listing in the **Death Notice section of the Chicago Tribune,** an online notice with guestbook on chicagotribune.com.

Chicago Tribune

Visit: chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Dornik, Tanya M.

Tanya M. Dornik, 51, of Wadsworth, IL, passed away peacefully at home with her family members at her side on Saturday, March 25, 2023, after a long courageous battle with cancer. Visitation will be from 5 pm to 8 pm on Friday, March 31 at **Gurnee Salata Funeral Home**, 4190 Old Grand Ave, Gurnee, IL 60031. Interment will take place privately at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville, IL. Please visit Tanya's obituary page at GurneeSalata.com for more information.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Garcia, Apolonia B.

Apolonia Bacani Garcia, 87. Beloved wife of 47 years to Diosdado; loving mother of Edwin (Enida), Haydee (Greg) Martin, Lionel (Cathy); cherished grandmother to Jenna (Jason) Mendoza, Shane (Casey), Jordan (John), Jessica (Michael) Flatley, Brandon, Danny Martin and Jack Martin; beloved great-grandmother to Landon, Mariela, Micah, Logan, and Charles; fond sister of Angelita (Roberto) Reyes, Ricardo (Nieves) Bacani, Vicente Jr. (the late Rita) Bacani, Lourdes (Bernardo) Laxa, and Diosdado (Gloria) Bacani; devoted aunt of many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Visitation March 30, 2023 from 4 pm to 8 pm at **Tohle Funeral Home**, 4325 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago 60630. Family and friends are asked to meet at St. Edwards 4350 W. Sunnyside Ave. Chicago 60630 on March 31, 2023 for the funeral Mass at 10:30 am. Interment to follow at Maryhill Cemetery in Niles. In lieu of flowers, donations towards masses in remembrance of Apolonia C/O St. Edward Church are appreciated. Info available at 773-685-4400 or tohlefuneralhome.com

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Gargul, John Bruno

John Bruno Gargul, age 85. Beloved husband of Sophie (nee Czaja). Loving father of John (Sharon) and Rich (Elisa) Gargul. Cherished Dziadzia of Jonathan (Chelsea) and Jeffrey (Tara) Gargul. Preceded in death by his siblings; Zygmunt , Jozef, and Danuta. Fond brother-in-law of the Czaja, Momot, Szponder, Gajda, and Fela families. Loving uncle, relative, and friend, and numerous family members in Poland. Visitation Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at **Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home**, 8025 W. Golf Road in Niles. Funeral Friday, March 31 at 9:15 a.m. from the funeral home to St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Church in Northbrook. Mass 10:00 a.m. Entombment will follow at All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials appreciated in John's name to St. Norbert Church and Our Lady of the Brook Church or to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. Info 847-581-0536 or www.colonialfuneral.com

Colonial-Wojciechowski

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Goldeen, George Melvin

George Melvin Goldeen, 98, died peacefully in his sleep on March 27, 2023. George lost the love of his life, Elayne (nèe Feinberg) over 6 years ago. They were a role model for their family for almost 60 years. George was born in Chicago at a time where he could still remember seeing Model T's driving the roads. He grew up in Brooklyn, NY and Chicago where he graduated from Sullivan High School. In 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and very proudly served in the 494th Division in the Pacific as a Second Lieutenant Bombardier Navigator. His service to his country was a defining moment in his life. After WWII he returned to Chicago and graduated from DePaul University on the GI Bill. He soon joined Maharam Fabrics which evolved into Design Craft, where he spent almost 45 years as a proud salesperson and eventually Director of Sales. George and Elayne raised their family in Glencoe, IL and then moved to Chantilly in Highland Park, IL for the remainder of their lives together until George moved to downtown Chicago near his daughter. Family was everything to George and he demonstrated that every day of his life through the love and caring and interest he showed to his growing family. He is survived by his daughters Deborah Halpern (Philip) and Claudia Rayne (Chris); his grandchildren Ryan Werder, Danielle Werder, Kaitlin Rayne, Anne Rayne, Nicholas Halpern and Katie Halpern, as well as nine great grandchildren. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 29 at 10am at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. Donations in George's memory may be made to I AM ALS, www.iamals.org or the charitable organization of your choice. Info: 847-256-5700.

WEINSTEIN & PISER
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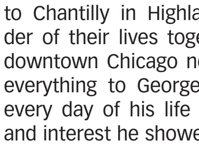
Goodman, Gail



Gail Goodman nee Urkov, age 80. Beloved daughter of the late Ida Urkov and the late Meyer Urkov. Loving mother of Lisa Goodman and Eric (Mandie) Goodman. Proud grandmother of Mia Goodman and Madison Goodman. Dear sister of Toby (Sherwin) Pogrund and the late Morris (the late Myrna) Urkov. Cherished aunt and great aunt of many. Service Thursday 2PM at **Chicago Jewish Funeral**s, 8851 Skokie Blvd. (at Niles Center Road) Skokie. Interment Westlawn. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Temple Israel , 2323 Fremont Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405, www.templeisrael.com. To attend the funeral live stream, please visit our website. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funeral**s - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfinfo.com

CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

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Grant, David L.

David L. Grant; beloved husband of Vada A. Grant, née Peterson; loving father of Mandy (Ryan) Corbett and Michael (Sara) Grant; dear grandfather of Brendan, Camryn, Justin, Lauren, and Ethan; fond brother of Linda (John) Courts. Retired Administrator, State of Illinois, Department of Health and Human Services. Visitation Thursday, March 30th, 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at **Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home**, 4343 Main Street (1 Blk. So. of Ogden Ave.), Downers Grove. Family and friends to meet Friday, March 31st, for a 10:00 a.m. Funeral Service at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4501 Main Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Interment Clarendon Hills Cemetery. Information: 630-968-1000 or www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com.

Adams Winterfield & Sullivan
Funeral home
and cremation services

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Hillman, Debbie

aka the bike & buggy woman, 71, of Evanston, passed away 03/23/2023. She grew up in Chicago's Petersen Park and suburb Highland Park, and graduated with a philosophy degree from George Washington University. She was a self-employed gardener, leader in the Illinois "local foods" movement, a democracy consultant, and an impassioned fighter for equality and access for all. Debbie is preceded in death by her dad, Fred, and mom, Betty (Corwin) and is survived by sisters Judy (Gordon), Laurie, and Bonnie (Shay), and daughter Saya and son-in-law Pete. For memorial details, visit https://macncheeseproductions.com/debbie-hillman/

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Huebner, Christine

Christine Huebner John, 76, of Boulder, CO. passed peacefully on March 25, 2023 surrounded by her children.

Born March 21, 1947 in Bay City, MI to Elanor and Robert Huebner, Chris went on to graduate from Kingswood - Cranbrook high school where she began some of her cherished lifelong friendships. Her higher education began at American University and culminated with a bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College.

Through her real estate career that spanned more than 3 decades, she helped countless families find the right house to call home in both Bay City and Bloomfield Hills, MI.

In retirement, she kept busy volunteering with various organizations but particularly enjoyed making memories with her grandchildren. Memories which now serve as her technicolor legacy.

Christine is survived by her children George (Kim) Shaw, Emily (Rick) Lindner and stepchildren Kerry John and Colin (Christma) John; grandchildren Sydney, George and Fred; and brother Fred (Mary) Huebner.

Plans are in the works for a celebration of her life later this year.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Habitat for Humanity, any area non-profit Hospice provider or Humane Society animal shelter.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Kelly, Lorraine Therese

Lorraine Therese Kelly, 96 of Arlington Heights. Visitation Friday, March 31, 2023 from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM at **Glueckert Funeral Home Ltd.**, 1520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights and Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the funeral home from 9:00 AM until the time of prayers at 10:15 AM to St. James Catholic Church, 831 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights for Mass at 11:00 AM. Interment private. For funeral service information and condolences go to www.GlueckertFH.com or (847) 253-0168

Glueckert
Funeral Home Ltd.

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Lake, Maria Celeste

Maria Celeste Lake, age 70, of Glendale Heights, IL, passed away March 25, 2023. Visitation Sunday, April 2, 2:00-7:00 PM at **Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services**, 44 S. Mill St., Naperville, and Monday, April 3, 9:00-10:00 AM at Trinity Vineyard Fellowship Church, 12 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles. The Funeral will follow at 10:00 AM. (Visit www.trinityvfc.org to attend the service virtually) For information call 630/355-0213 or visit www.friedrich-jones.com for a complete obituary.

Friedrich Jones
Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

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Millman, Anne Zorlene

✡

Anne Zolene Millman, nee Reeder, age 83, born and raised in Chicago, was a respected medical staff credentialing specialist at various hospitals; beloved wife for 48 years of the late Jerome "Jerry" Millman; loving mother of Cindy Millman, Wendy (Mark) Unterberger, Melissa (Mike) Trawin and the late Abe (Marianne) Millman; adored grandma of Risa (Brett), Jacob, Nathan, Nick, Ryan, Matthew, Trevor (fiancée Nichola), Amber, and Spencer; proud great grandmother of Iliza and Stevie; devoted daughter of the late Jack and the late Ilene Reeder; cherished sister of Richard (Anne O'Malley) Reeder; dear sister-in-law of Carole (Barry) Rosenberg; treasured aunt, cousin, and friend to many. Anne had a wonderous zest for life. She was completely devoted to her family and friends. Graveside service Friday, 12 Noon at Westlawn Cemetery, Section Petunia, 7801 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the charity of your choice. Information: The **Goldman Funeral Group**, www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com (847) 478-1600.

Goldman
Funeral Group

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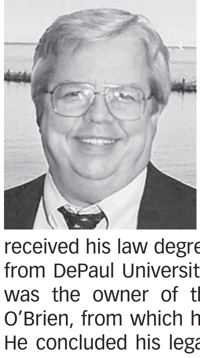
O'Brien, James M.



James M. O'Brien, age 75, of Montgomery, Illinois, passed away at his home on March 26, 2023. Survived by his Three children, Four sisters, and 9 nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents James and Selma, and nephew Dan Rosengren. He grew up in Berwyn and attended St. Mel High School in Chicago. He received his law degree, magna cum laude, in 1975 from DePaul University College of Law. Mr. O'Brien was the owner of the Law Office of James M. O'Brien, from which he retired at the end of 2012. He concluded his legal career with his publication of History-1, Cubs-0 – A Perspective of the Chicago Cubs Championship Drought (GM Books, 2012). Visitation for James will be held Friday March 31, 2023 from 3pm – 8pm at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 301 75th St., Downers Grove, IL. For full obituary please visit: hjfunerals.com. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to The Cubs Charities Community Fund in Jim's name (https://www.mlb.com/cubs/community/cubs-charities/donate). Funeral info 630-964-6500

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Powell, Vivian V.

Vivian V. Powell nee Pugh; beloved wife of the late John C., Sr.; loving mother of Diane (the late John) Lovitz, Judith (Larry) Robbins, Donald (Eileen), Sharon (Mike) Roth and the late John C., Jr.; cherished grandmother of Kerry, Heather, Brian, Meagan, Ashley, Christopher, Elizabeth, Daniel; great-grandmother of Jillian; Visitation 11 AM until time of service 12:30 PM at **Gibbons Family Funeral Home** 5917 W. Irving Park Rd (1/2 Block East of Austin). Interment Irving Park Cemetery. For info 773-777-3944 or www.GFFH.com

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Rosenfeld, Ruth W.

Ruth W. Rosenfeld, beloved wife of the late Gene Rosenfeld, devoted mother of Paula Rosenfeld, Nancy (Howard) Clayman, and Julie (Daniel) Dillon; proud grandmother of Madeline Huzenis, Sivan (Zemach) Ben Moshe, Yael Sokol, and Rose and Thomas Dillon; delighted great grandmother of Eliyah and Uriah Sokol, and Romi and Atai Ben Moshe. Born and raised in Chicago, Ruth lived in California, Tel Aviv, Highland Park, and Northbrook. Ruth was an artist, a bookkeeper, an inveterate volunteer at Congregation Solel and other places, was devoted to social causes and her family. She was well read and enjoyed the arts, travel, had a green thumb, and was an excellent cook. She loved to entertain, hosting holidays at her home even into her 90s. She and Gene had a long, happy marriage for 71 years and a close knit group of friends. Funeral service 10 am Thursday, March 30 at Makom Solel Lakeside, 1301 Clavey Road, Highland Park (livestream available). In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Magen David Adom or Makom Solel Lakeside.

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Stareshina, Virginia Joyce

Virginia J. Stareshina (Liskey), 84, of Bennington, NH, passed away at Hillsboro House in Hillsborough, NH, on March 23, 2023, from complications due to a stroke.

She was born in Waukegan, Illinois on December 13, 1938, a daughter to the late Norman W. and Victoria (Michalowski) Liskey.

She worked as a secretary at Abbott Labs in North Chicago for 26 years, before establishing her own business in the medical claims, at a time before medical facilities handled insurance claims. Virginia and her husband, the late Frank J. Stareshina, moved to NH in 1994 to be nearer to their daughter, Susan. She had this business for 10 years before her retirement.

Virginia was very smart and knew her way around technology. She was the "Jill of all trades" and could easily research and find information, and excelled at everything that she took part in. She was always family-first and loved her family more than anything else. In her spare times she enjoyed reading, word puzzles and golfing. Her proudest moment was her hole-in-one that both her daughter and husband were present to witness. She also loved to brag that she was able to type 92 words per minute with no mistakes.

Virginia was preceded in death by both of her parents, Norman and Victoria, her husband Frank whom she shared 44 years together, her partner of 14 years, Carleton Lyman Sr., her sister Donna O'Farrell, and her brothers Howard and Ronald.

Virginia will be forever remembered by her daughter Susan Parris and her husband Dennis of Bennington, NH, a sister Barbara Lewis of Highland Park, IL, her two brothers, William Liskey and his wife Diana of Ft. Collins, CO, and Richard Liskey and his wife Peg of Wauconda, IL, her sister-in-law Linda Liskey of The Villages, FL, and Arlene Liskey of Stoughton, WI, and two very special "bonus daugthers" Lauren Lyman of Jacksonville, FL, and Christine Lyman of Merritt Island, FL.

Per Virginia's request, there will be no services.

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Our website walks you through the simple process to commemorate your loved one's legacy.

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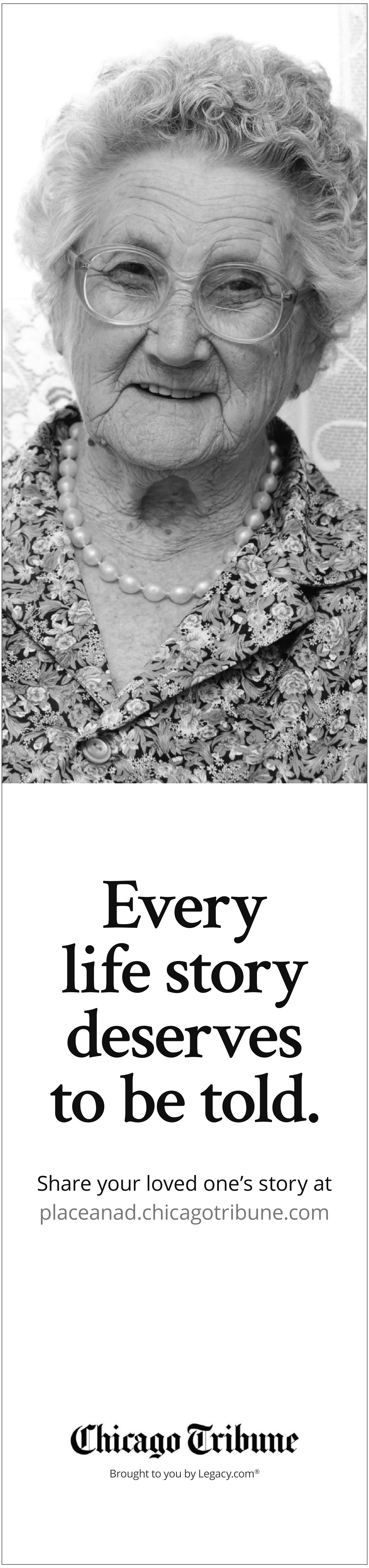

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ASSUMED NAMES

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010239** on the D**ate: February 27, 2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **ALICE BUTTERFIELD AND ASSOCIATES**
with the business located at:
20560 BENSLEY AVE
LYNWOOD, IL, 60411
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **ALICE K & WILLIAM H BUTTERFIELD**
20560 BENSLEY AVE
LYNWOOD, IL, 60411
3/15, 3/22, & 3/29/23 7397082

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010321** on the D**ate: March 15, 2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **Milestone Yearbooks USA**
with the business located at:
3808 North Seeley Avenue 1N
Chicago, IL, 60618
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Russell Smotek**
3808 North Seeley Avenue 1N
Chicago, IL, 60618
3/22, 3/29 & 4/5/2023 7400077

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

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Req No.: C22CT102801367R,
Invitation for Bids (IFB) to Furnish and Deliver One (1) Commercial Floor Sweeper.
PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
Questions regarding this Bid must be submitted via Bonfire no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) Monday, April 3, 2023. Questions will not be accepted after this date and time.
For additional information, please contact Tamika Johnson, Procurement Administrator, tjohnson7@transitchicago.com.
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PLEASE NOTE: The right is reserved to accept any bid or any part or parts thereof or to reject any and all bids.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain
March 29, 2023
3/29/2023 7406856

PACE, THE SUBURBAN BUS DIVISION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY IS SOLICITING:
IFB No. 422329
for Two Pad Mount Transformers and One Outdoor Service Rated Switchboard Lineup
Download the complete details about the solicitation and addenda
At Pace's Website www.pacebus.com
Click on Doing Business and Open Solicitations
Solicitation No. 422329
Publish Date: March 29, 2023
Issued by: Pace Chief Procurement Officer

3/29/23 7407202

Safety First.
Find a watch dog in our Pets category.

Chicago Tribune

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

DATE ADVERTISED: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023 COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR COUNTYWIDE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR AVL-GPS TELEMATICS FOR COUNTYWIDE FLEET RFP NO.: 2208-10110

RFP Document: The RFP document is available for download at: https://cookcountyil.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities

Contact Person: If you are not able to download the RFP or if you have other questions, please contact Anneice Owens, Senior Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-3950 or anneice.owens@cookcountyil.gov

Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 3:00 PM Local Time - Chicago Pre-Proposal Meeting will be conducted online.

Please refer to the RFP Solicitation document for information on how to access the Pre-Proposal Meeting.

Questions: Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted via the Link below by 5:00 PM Local Time - Chicago on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. https://cookcountyil.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities

Proposal Due Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time - Chicago All Proposals must be submitted electronically and uploaded to https://cookcountyil.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities following the instructions set forth in the RFP Solicitation document.

Toni Preckwinkle
President,
Cook County
Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer

Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted
3/29/23 7407217

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Senior Administrative Specialist
(Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 7, 2023. **Examination Date:** May 13, 2023. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Senior Administrative Specialist practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under supervision, performs sub-professional administrative work such as document and records management, data collection, and reporting and coordination of internal processes specific to the assigned department or functional area. **Salary:** $74,693.06 per year

Assistant Civil Engineer
(Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 21, 2023. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Assistant Civil Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level civil engineering work in the design, construction, maintenance and operation of water reclamation plants and sewers. May supervise sub-professional personnel. **Salary:** $80,312.96 per year

Assistant Electrical Engineer
(Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 21, 2023. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Assistant Electrical Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties**: Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level electrical engineering work in electrical power and lighting systems design; construction inspection and scheduling review; and preparation of electrical estimates. Performs field inspections of electrical installations or assists in supervision of electrical equipment maintenance. **Salary:** $80,312.96 per year

Assistant Mechanical Engineer
(Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 21, 2023. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Assistant Mechanical Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level mechanical engineering work in mechanical design, construction inspection and plant maintenance or operation. May review the work of sub-professional personnel. **Salary:** $80,312.96 per year

Assistant Structural Engineer
(Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 21, 2023. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Assistant Structural Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level structural engineering work in the design of steel, wood, and reinforced concrete structures. May supervise sub-professional personnel. **Salary:** $80,312.96 per year

Senior Diversity Officer
(Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 24, 2023 through April 7, 2023. **Examination Date:** May 12-13, 2023. **Location:** MWRD Main Office Building Annex, 111 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Senior Diversity Officer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties**: Assists in the implementation of the District's Affirmative Action policies to ensure compliance with Federal, State and District Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity laws, regulations and requirements and supervises professional staff. **Salary:** $97,826.30 per year

Engineering Technician III (Original)

Application Filing Period: March 31, 2023 through April 14, 2023. **Examination Date:** May 20, 2023. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Engineering Technician III practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under supervision, is responsible for performing technical tasks related to the maintenance and operation of a sewage treatment plant. **Salary:** $58,236.88 per year

Applications can be submitted online **only** at www.districtjobs.org.

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100.

Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted.
Resumes Will Not Be Accepted In Place of Application Forms.
An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D
Pub: 3/24 thru 4/72023 7403034

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT – MARCH 29, 2023
CPS RFP FOR PK-12 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, REVISION, TRANSLATION, AND EVALUATION SERVICES
DUE: APRIL 28, 2023 AT 11:00 a.m.
See: www.cps.edu/procurement
March 29, 2023 - 7407205

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Notification is hereby given that JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 1111 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43240 has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") on or about March 29, 2023, as specified in 12 CFR Part 5, for permission to establish a domestic branch at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Troy Street and West 26th Street, Chicago, Cook County, IL 60623. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Licensing Manager, Large Banks Licensing Operations, 400 7 th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20219 within 30 days of the date of this publication. The public portion of the filing is available upon request from the OCC. The public may find information about the filing (including the closing date of the comment period) in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at www.occ.gov.
March 29, 2023 - 7403614

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Heirs and Devisees of the Estate of Oscar L. Rush and Brenda M. Rush; Heirs and Devisees of Estate of Brenda M. Rush c/o Jennifer R. Rush; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001152 FILED: March 16, 2023 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 25, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0007032 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2007-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1256 N. MAYFIELD AVENUE , CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 16-05-225-016-0000 Vol. 546 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 18, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before August 18, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on August 30, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before August 18, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 GT ALTERNATIVES LLC, purchaser or assignee Dated: March 17, 2023
3/28, 3/29, 3/30/20237402666

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

CONTRACT 21-091-3P
PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL MODIFICATIONS TO BATTERY D, O'BRIEN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

Estimated Cost is Between: $16,638,205.00 and $20,140,985.00 Bid Deposit: $600,000.00
Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid Site Walkthrough: Friday, April 7, 2023 at 10:00 am CST at the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant located at 3500 Howard Street; Skokie, IL 60076; Completed SV-1 form required to participate.
Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid Conference via ZOOM: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 9:00 am CST.

Bid Opening: May 9, 2023

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix V, Appendix K, Appendix C and the Multi-Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract. Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Neither the State of Illinois nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. The procurement will be subject to regulations contained in the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (35 IAC Part 365), the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a through 276a-5) as defined by the United States Department of Labor, the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570), Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1), and the federal "Build America, Buy America Act" requirements contained in the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58. This procurement is also subject to the loan recipient's policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises. The loan recipient's policy requires all bidders to undertake specified affirmative efforts at least sixteen (16) days prior to bid opening. The policy is contained in the specifications. Bidders are also required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in 41 CFR 60-4.

CONTRACT 23-033-11
FURNISH AND DELIVER MISCELLANEOUS AIR FILTERS TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Estimated Cost for Group A:	$ 58,000.00	Bid Deposit for Group A:	NONE
Estimated Cost for Group B:	$ 17,000.00	Bid Deposit for Group B:	NONE
Estimated Cost for Group C:	$ 1,800.00	Bid Deposit for Group C:	NONE
Estimated Cost for Group D:	$ 21,000.00	Bid Deposit for Group D:	NONE
Total:	$ 97,800.00	Bid Deposit Total:	NONE

Bid Opening: April 18, 2023

****

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice- Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**; the path is as follows: Doing Business ➡ Procurement and Materials Management ➡ Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business ➡ Procurement & Materials Management ➡ Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: **contractdesk@mwrd.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
March 29, 2023

NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 14-YEAR LEASE OF 22.9± ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 15660 CANAL BANK ROAD IN LEMONT, ILLINOIS; MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 23.03

LEASE NUMBER: 23-362-11

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: April 4, 2023

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposal will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on April 4, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CHICAGO TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 22.9± acres of District real estate located at 15660 Canal Bank Road in Lemont, Illinois; Main Channel Parcel 23.03. The property has roadway frontage of approximately 2,469± linear feet along the southeast side of Canal Bank Road, and water frontage of approximately 962± feet along the northwest side of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, also known as the Main Channel, that supports barge operations. Road access to the property is available via Canal Bank Road. Municipal sewer and water are not extended to this area. The property is presently improved by a storage building measuring 4,167± sq. ft. and two small sheds. The property is partially covered in asphalt and concrete. As of the date of this Invitation to Bid, the property is zoned as "M-3, Heavy Manufacturing District." The property is located in the Village of Lemont. The Village generally supports ongoing commercial use of the property but disfavors using the property for exclusive truck and trailer parking on the site. Unless a lease is awarded to the current tenant occupying the property, possession of the leasehold may not commence before January 1, 2024.

It is possible that within the term of a new lease agreement that the boundary of the leasehold, specifically along the northern and western boundaries of Parcel 23.03 along Canal Bank Road, will be pulled back to accommodate the roadway purposes. This reduction would be only by a marginal amount, but that amount is not yet precisely known. Such use would slightly reduce the size of the leasehold. If that occurs during the term of a new lease, the District will reduce the rent in an amount proportionate to the percentage of property removed from the leasehold area.

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $5,000,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $500,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq, and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be caused for the rejection of any bid. Biding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

If any potential Proposer contemplating to submit a proposal is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the specifications or other contract documents, such inquiry should be submitted online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**. The path is as follows: (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail or any other such form of delivery.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit to be paid to the District via ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfer in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the initial annual rental based on bidder's Proposal. Payment of such bid deposit by check of any kind will not be accepted, and all bid deposits must be received no later than the bid opening time. Any proposal submitted without a timely submitted bid deposit will not be considered and will not be read after it is publicly opened.

To submit a bid deposit, visit **https://mwrd.org/form/submit-bid-deposit**, which will automatically take you to the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page. You can also access that page by visiting the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** and taking the following path: DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS → click *"Submit Bid Deposit"* link. At the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page, click the drop-down menu for this Contract No. and select this contract, then fill in all required fields. Carefully review your information on this page and each subsequent page (SUBMIT BID DEPOSIT → PAYMENT → CONFIRMATION → RECEIPT) as you will not be allowed to continue to each next page unless all required fields are properly filled in. Upon completion of the process, an email will be sent to your attention acknowledging that payment of your bid deposit has been initiated and that payment, once approved, will be applied to your account. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your spam and junk email folders. Ensure the MWRD emails are not filtered as spam. Any questions concerning making such deposits should be directed to the District's Clerk/Director of Finance, Jacqueline Torres at **312-751-6500** or by email to **torresj@mwrd.org**, or Supervising Accountant Mete Hachim at **312-751-6516** or by email to **hachimm@mwrd.org**.

The required bid deposit will be forfeited in the event the successful bidder fails to execute a lease agreement within 13 days of its tender. All other deposits will be returned to the respective depositors. The form of the lease currently used for this transaction is available for inspection at the District office identified below.

The successful bidder, if other than the initial applicant, will pay to the District the cost for obtaining the applicant's two (2) appraisal reports, the cost of which will be documented upon execution of the lease. In order for the initial applicant to be reimbursed for its costs in obtaining 2 appraisal reports, said initial applicant must submit a qualifying bid in this matter. In addition, if not already submitted, the successful bidder will obtain at its cost a plat of survey and legal description of the subject premises and submit same to the District within 21 days of the award.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The District offers all prospective tenants that are awarded leases through competitive bidding the opportunity to participate in the District's **Green Infrastructure Program**. Participation is voluntary for all private non-governmental entities. Under the program, private entities can receive a credit equal to $0.50 on the $1.00, up to 10% of the annual rent owed to the District, capped at the first 10 years of the lease, for expenditures related to pre-approved green infrastructure. If interested, see the *Green Infrastructure Program Information Sheet* included with this Bid Package.

The District will only respond to questions received online ONE WEEK prior to the date set to receive proposals. The District will not respond to questions received after this date. The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

The District's responses online are NOT official responses and, therefore, are not binding to the bidding documents. Any official interpretation or change to the bidding documents will be made only by addenda duly issued to all plan holders on record by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

The contact person for the request for proposal is **Senior Attorney Jeff Waldhoff**. This contact person will provide online inquiries.

The District reserves the right to accept any Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Proposals.

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO
By:
Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune: March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2023.

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INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR
3865 S Lake Park Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Chicago (the "City"), through its Department of Planning and Development, Real Estate Division (the "Department"), intends to enter into a negotiated sale with the Alonzo Williams (the "Developer") for the disposition of City-owned property containing a total area of approximately 11,075 square feet, located at the following addresses:

3865 S Lake Park Avenue; PIN 17-35-104-010-0000 (the "Property")

The Developer proposes to purchase the Property for $144,600.00, which is the appraised value, in order to improve the Property with a single family residence.

Prior to further consideration of the proposed purchase, the Department of Planning and Development invites alternative proposals for consideration from others interested in the acquisition of this property.

The document entitled "Madden Wells Redevelopment Project Area Tax Increment Finance Program" constitutes the redevelopment plan for the subject area and is available for review at the Department of Planning and Development, City Hall, Room 1003, 121 North Lasalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, on business days between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Please contact Nelson Chueng at (312) 744-5756 to arrange an appointment to review the redevelopment plan.

All proposals are required to be submitted in writing to the:

Department of Planning and Development
Real Estate Division
Attention: Nelson Chueng
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602

On or before April 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. local time. Each proposal must describe the general plan for development of the property, the price offered for the property, the names of the party or parties making the proposal, evidence of financial qualifications and capacity to complete said development and timetable for implementation of the proposal.

The City of Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to request additional information in clarification of any proposal. No proposal will be accepted from any person, firm or corporation who is in default on any loan or debt owed to the City of Chicago, either as principal or surety, or is otherwise in breach of any contract or obligation to the City.

The City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. If you are developer with a disability or need assistance regarding the invitation, please call the Real Estate Division at (312) 744-5263.

Maurice D. Cox
Commissioner

Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 3-YEAR LEASE ON 2.5 ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 15680 CANAL BANK ROAD IN LEMONT, ILLINOIS, AND KNOWN AS MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 23.10

LEASE NUMBER: 23-363-11

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: **April 18, 2023**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposals will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Central Standard Time), on April 18, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 2.5 acres of District real estate located at 15680 Canal Bank Road in Lemont, Illinois, and known as Main Channel parcel 23.10. The site is improved with a concrete dock pad and chain link fencing. Any improvements or any personal property located on the premises are not part of this proposal to lease and therefore will not be part of any lease awarded on this site as they are the property of the current tenant; accordingly, if other than the current tenant is awarded a lease, any improvements or any personal property shall be removed, dismantled or demolished by the current tenant. Site access to the Demised Premises is from Old Lemont Road across a private road owned by the District. The successful bidder will be responsible for maintaining the road based upon its proportionate use of the road. Unless a lease is awarded to the current tenant occupying the property, possession of the leasehold may not commence until June 1, 2023.

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $600,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $60,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq; and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be cause for the rejection of any bid. Biding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

If any potential Proposer contemplating to submit a proposal is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the specifications or other contract documents, such inquiry should be submitted online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**. The path is as follows: (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail or any other such form of delivery.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit to be paid to the District via ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfer in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the initial annual rental based on bidder's Proposal. Payment of such bid deposit by check of any kind will not be accepted, and all bid deposits must be received no later than the bid opening time. Any proposal submitted without a timely submitted bid deposit will not be considered and will not be read after it is publicly opened.

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The required bid deposit will be forfeited in the event the successful bidder fails to execute a lease agreement within 13 days of its tender. All other deposits will be returned to the respective depositors. The form of the lease currently used for this transaction is available for inspection at the District's Law Office, and is also attached within the contract documents.

The successful bidder, if other than the initial (or lead) applicant who previously submitted two (2) appraisal reports, will pay to the District the cost for obtaining the initial applicant's 2 appraisal reports, the cost of which will be documented upon execution of the lease. In order for an unsuccessful initial applicant to be reimbursed for its own costs in obtaining 2 appraisal reports previously submitted, said unsuccessful initial applicant must have submitted a qualifying bid in this matter. In addition, if not already submitted, the successful bidder will obtain at its cost a plat of survey and legal description of the subject premises and submit same to the District within 21 days of the award.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The District offers all prospective tenants that are awarded leases through competitive bidding the opportunity to participate in the District's **Green Infrastructure Program**. Participation is voluntary for all private non-governmental entities. Under the program, private entities can receive a credit equal to $0.50 on the $1.00, up to 10% of the annual rent owed to the District, capped at the first 10 years of the lease, for expenditures related to pre-approved green infrastructure. If interested, see the *Green Infrastructure Program Information Sheet* included with this Bid Package.

The District will only respond to questions received online ONE WEEK prior to the date set to receive proposals. The District will not respond to questions received after this date. The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

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The contact person for the request for proposal is **Senior Attorney Margarett S. Zilligen**. This contact person will provide responses to online inquires only. Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

The District reserves the right to accept any Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Proposals.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune
March 29, 2023, and April 5, 2023, and April 12, 2023

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NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 30-YEAR LEASE ON 12.8± ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 7499 CANAL BANK DRIVE IN SUMMIT, ILLINOIS; MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 35.04

LEASE NUMBER: **23-361-12(Re-bid)**

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: **April 4, 2023**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposals will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Central Standard Time), on April 4, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 12.8± acres of District real estate located at 7499 Canal Bank Drive in Summit, Illinois; Main Channel Parcel 35.04. The property is improved with two concrete warehouses. Each warehouse is a one-story industrial building comprised of 42,354 square feet and 78,502 square feet gross building area, respectively.

A representative of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") will be at the subject real estate to facilitate an optional site visit **Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 10:00-11:00 AM (Central Standard Time).**

Attendees must sign a waiver form. Attendees must also provide their name and business affiliation to the District representative at the start of the site visit by submission of a business card or other writing. **Please note that attending the site visit is not a requirement for bidding.**

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $2,800,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $280,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq; and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be cause for the rejection of any bid. Biding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

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METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO

Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune
March 15, 2023, March 22, 2023 and March 29, 2023

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CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER

abc7
AccuWeather TEAM

Meteorologists Larry Mowry, Cheryl Scott, Jaisol Martinez, Tracy Butler and Greg Dutra

ABC7 Outlook: Snow likely, mainly before 10 a.m. Cloudy, then gradual clearing during the afternoon, with a high near 38. WNW wind 10 to 15 mph. New snow accumulation of less than a half of an inch is possible.

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night
High:	39	51	63	43	56	60
Low:	27	47	36	33	48	47
	Colder; a rain or snow shower this morning	Mostly cloudy, milder; a little p.m. rain	Rain and a thunderstorm in the afternoon	Showers of rain and snow; windy, cooler	Warmer with sun and some clouds	Cloudy with a couple of showers
POP:	55%	55%	90%	65%	10%	60%
Winds:	NW 8-16 mph	SSE 7-14 mph	SSW 10-20 mph	NW 15-25 mph	S 7-14 mph	NE 7-14 mph

CHICAGO FORECAST

Wednesday Conditions

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™	0	1	2	5	3	1	0
RealFeel Temperature®	25	21	26	35	37	33	33

Wednesday Activities

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
Outdoor Activities Index	2	0	1	4	4	3	2
Fishing Index	0	0	6	8	3	1	0

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes: 0-2**: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC

Tuesday Temperatures

O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	**51**
Low	**30**
Normal high	**52**
Normal low	**34**
Record high	**79** (1986)
Record low	**9** (1887)

Local Temperatures
through 6 p.m. Tuesday

			Normal	
Location	**Hi**	**Lo**	**Hi**	**Lo**
Aurora	52	25	53	32
Gary	50	27	52	34
Kankakee	51	27	53	33
Lansing	52	26	52	34
Midway	52	30	52	35
Romeoville	50	29	54	34
Valparaiso	49	30	54	34
Waukegan	46	24	49	30

Tuesday Precipitation

	2023	2022	Normal
Tuesday*	0.00"	0.00"	0.09"
Month to date	2.61"	2.09"	2.18"
Year to date	9.04"	5.53"	6.14"
Snowfall			
Tuesday*	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"
Month to date	1.8"	3.8"	5.2"
Season to date	19.6"	32.4"	36.8"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Tuesday

Air Quality Index

Tuesday's reading
Moderate
Wednesday's forecast
Good

Primary pollutant **Particulates**

Source: AirNow.gov

Sun and Moon

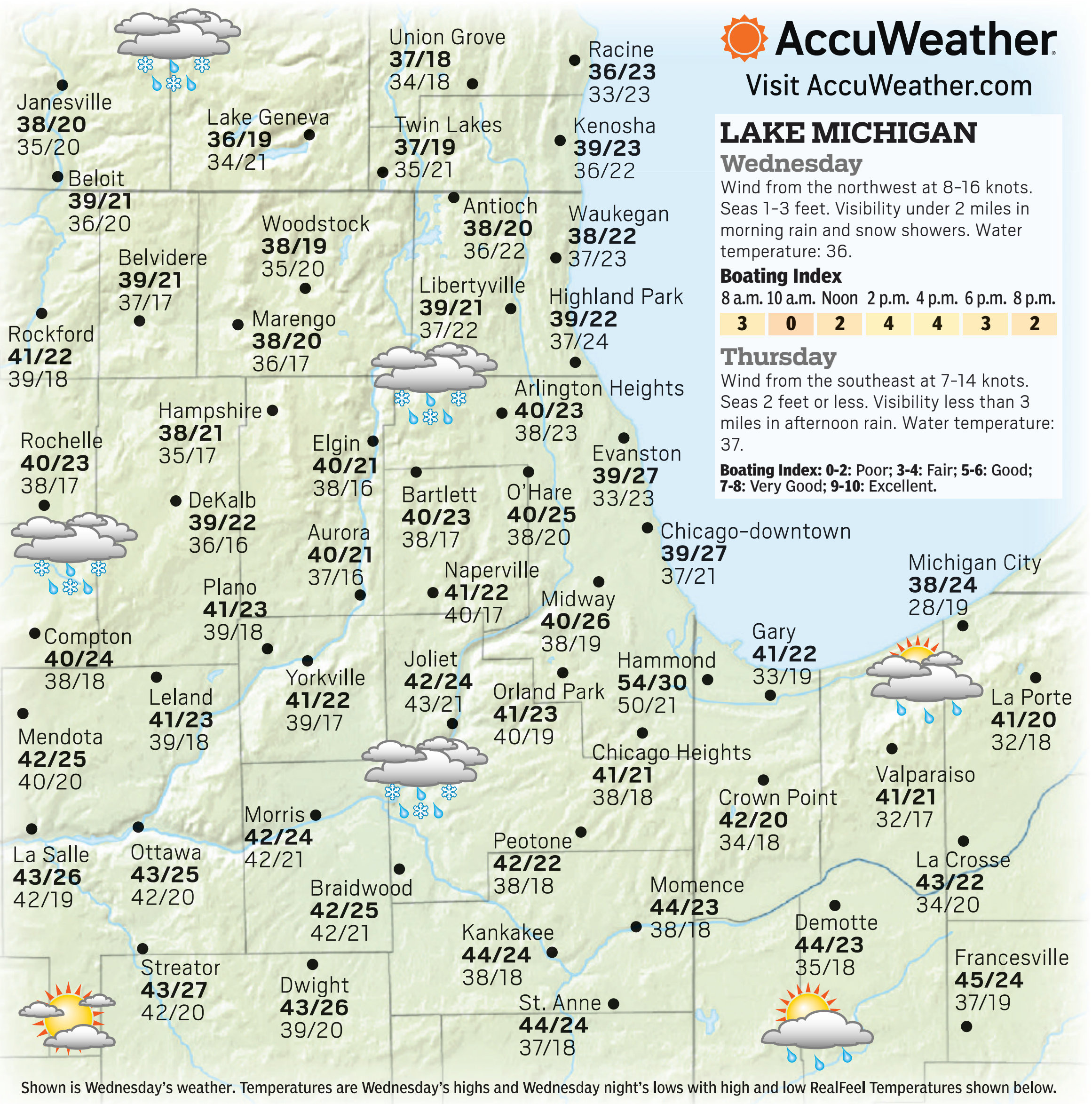
	Wed.	Thu.
Sunrise	6:39 a.m.	6:37 a.m.
Sunset	7:12 p.m.	7:13 p.m.
Moonrise	11:42 a.m.	12:41 p.m.
Moonset	3:07 a.m.	3:51 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Apr 5	Apr 13	Apr 19	Apr 27

Wednesday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	7:05 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Venus	8:05 a.m.	10:22 p.m.
Mars	10:47 a.m.	2:17 a.m.
Jupiter	7:07 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
Saturn	5:23 a.m.	4:03 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: 7:40 p.m. Mars: 7:40 p.m. Jupiter: 7:40 p.m. Saturn: 6:10 a.m. Mercury: 7:40 p.m.


Union Grove 37/18 34/18
Racine 36/23 33/23
Janesville 38/20 35/20
Lake Geneva 36/19 34/21
Twin Lakes 37/19 35/21
Kenosha 39/23 36/22
Beloit 39/21 36/20
Antioch 38/20 36/22
Waukegan 38/22 37/23
Woodstock 38/19 35/20
Belvidere 39/21 37/17
Libertyville 39/21 37/22
Highland Park 39/22 37/24
Rockford 41/22 39/18
Marengo 38/20 36/17
Arlington Heights 40/23 38/23
Hampshire 38/21 35/17
Rochelle 40/23 38/17
Elgin 40/21 38/16
Evanston 39/27 33/23
DeKalb 39/22 36/16
Bartlett 40/23 38/17
O'Hare 40/25 38/20
Aurora 40/21 37/16
Chicago-downtown 39/27 37/21
Naperville 41/22 40/17
Plano 41/23 39/18
Midway 40/26 38/19
Michigan City 38/24 28/19
Compton 40/24 38/18
Gary 41/22 33/19
Hammond 54/30 50/21
Joliet 42/24 43/21
Yorkville 41/22 39/17
Orland Park 41/23 40/19
La Porte 41/20 32/18
Leland 41/23 39/18
Mendota 42/25 40/20
Chicago Heights 41/21 38/18
Crown Point 42/20 34/18
Valparaiso 41/21 32/17
Morris 42/24 42/21
La Salle 43/26 42/19
Ottawa 43/25 42/20
Peotone 42/22 38/18
La Crosse 43/22 34/20
Braidwood 42/25 42/21
Momence 44/23 38/18
Kankakee 44/24 38/18
Demotte 44/23 35/18
Streator 43/27 42/20
Dwight 43/26 39/20
St. Anne 44/24 37/18
Francesville 45/24 37/19

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LAKE MICHIGAN

Wednesday

Wind from the northwest at 8-16 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility under 2 miles in morning rain and snow showers. Water temperature: 36.

Boating Index

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
3	0	2	4	4	3	2

Thursday

Wind from the southeast at 7-14 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility less than 3 miles in afternoon rain. Water temperature: 37.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

Shown is Wednesday's weather. Temperatures are Wednesday's highs and Wednesday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

ASK abc7

Cheryl Scott

QUESTION: Spring is severe weather season. Can you share tornado safety tips?

ANSWER: 1. Stay informed of the weather forecast. 2. Have a plan. Make sure everyone in your household knows the plan for what to do in the event of a tornado. 3. Prepare an emergency kit. Keep a well-stocked emergency kit on hand, including food, water, first aid supplies, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and any necessary medications. 5. Stay away from windows and glass doors. Move to an interior room away from windows (like a bathroom or closet) and crouch low to the ground, covering your head with your hands and arms to protect yourself from flying debris.

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at **abc7chicago.com/weather** or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

NATIONAL FORECAST

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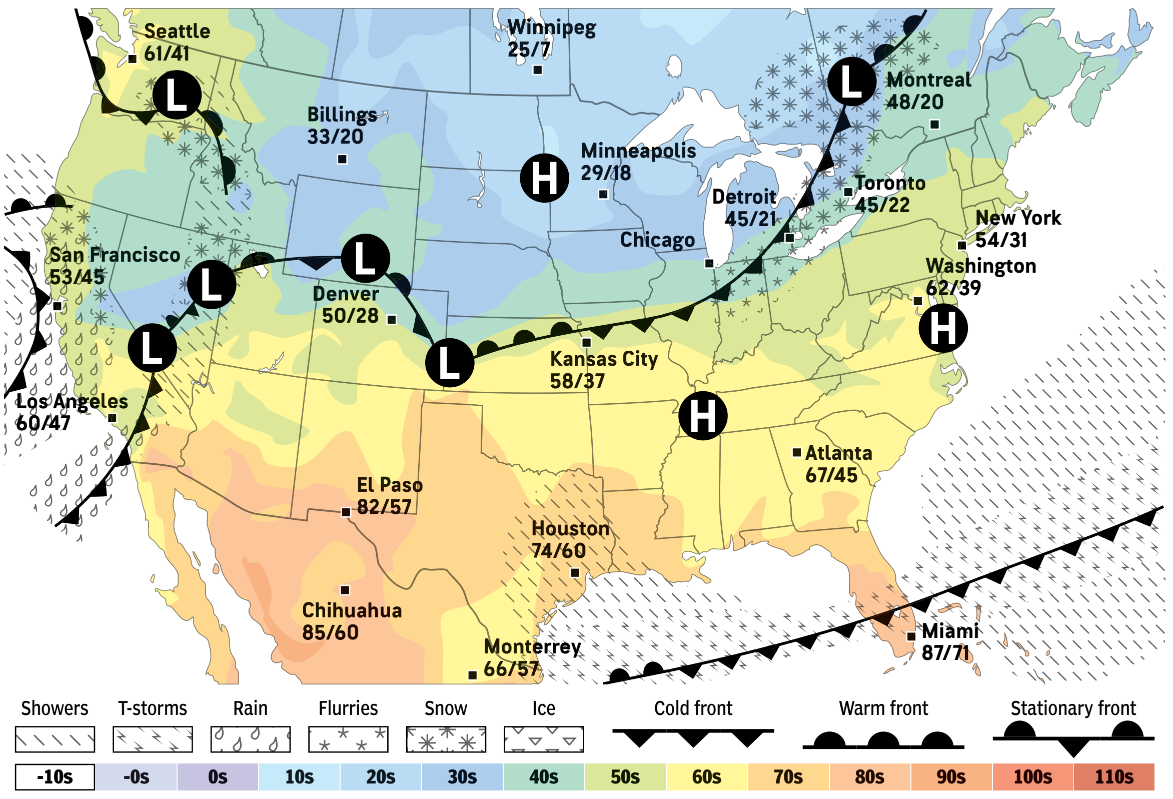
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.


Seattle 61/41
Winnipeg 25/7
Montreal 48/20
Billings 33/20
Minneapolis 29/18
Detroit 45/21
Toronto 45/22
Chicago
New York 54/31
San Francisco 53/45
Denver 50/28
Washington 62/39
Kansas City 58/37
Los Angeles 60/47
Atlanta 67/45
El Paso 82/57
Houston 74/60
Chihuahua 85/60
Monterrey 66/57
Miami 87/71
L
H
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Cold front
Warm front
Stationary front
-10s
-0s
0s
10s
20s
30s
40s
50s
60s
70s
80s
90s
100s
110s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	60/35/s	65/57/pc
Champaign	53/28/pc	60/52/c
Decatur	54/31/pc	62/51/pc
Moline	45/27/pc	62/53/r
Peoria	47/29/pc	61/53/r
Quincy	51/32/pc	64/54/c
Rockford	41/22/pc	51/49/r
Springfield	54/33/pc	63/54/pc
Sterling	42/25/pc	57/52/r
Indiana		
Bloomington	56/30/c	60/49/c
Evansville	60/35/s	66/54/pc
Fort Wayne	46/20/pc	49/44/c
Indianapolis	52/26/pc	55/49/pc
Lafayette	49/24/sh	59/53/pc
South Bend	41/19/pc	51/47/r
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	33/17/sf	41/33/pc
Kenosha	39/23/pc	48/43/r
La Crosse	35/20/c	46/42/r
Madison	37/17/sn	44/42/r
Milwaukee	36/22/pc	43/40/r
Wausau	31/14/pc	44/33/c
Michigan		
Detroit	45/21/sn	44/38/s
Grand Rapids	37/19/sn	46/40/c
Marquette	24/10/sf	39/28/pc
Sault Ste. Marie	29/17/sn	37/28/c
Traverse City	31/17/sf	45/36/pc
Iowa		
Ames	40/27/pc	62/57/r
Cedar Rapids	40/25/s	57/52/r
Des Moines	41/29/pc	64/57/r
Dubuque	38/22/sf	52/48/r

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	73/56/pc	75/66/t
Albany, NY	56/24/pc	41/25/s
Albuquerque	70/45/s	69/36/s
Amarillo	73/46/s	77/44/pc
Anchorage	37/36/sn	37/36/sn
Asheville	61/33/s	63/40/s
Aspen	51/32/c	45/20/r
Atlanta	67/45/s	72/53/s
Atlantic City	51/36/pc	49/39/s
Austin	72/58/sh	77/69/t
Baltimore	61/35/c	53/37/s
Billings	33/20/c	35/23/sn
Birmingham	68/42/s	74/56/s
Bismarck	21/9/s	32/19/c
Boise	45/32/c	49/32/r
Boston	50/34/pc	43/30/s
Brownsville	73/66/t	85/73/c
Buffalo	46/24/sn	36/30/s
Burlington, VT	50/23/pc	34/24/pc
Charleston, SC	67/45/pc	72/52/s
Charleston, WV	58/32/pc	56/41/pc
Charlotte	64/41/s	68/48/s
Chattanooga	65/39/s	71/51/s
Cheyenne	38/22/c	57/27/pc
Cincinnati	56/29/pc	57/47/pc
Cleveland	50/24/sn	46/39/s
Colorado Spgs	61/32/pc	65/30/pc
Columbia, MO	60/38/s	67/58/pc
Columbia, SC	66/42/s	71/48/s
Columbus, OH	54/22/pc	52/41/pc
Concord	54/27/c	39/23/s
Corpus Christi	70/67/sh	82/71/t
Dallas	69/55/pc	71/67/t
Daytona Beach	72/58/c	78/62/s
Denver	50/28/pc	65/31/pc
Duluth	26/1/pc	33/27/sn
El Paso	82/57/s	82/51/pc
Fairbanks	34/23/c	36/18/c
Fargo	20/7/s	30/22/sn
Flagstaff	51/30/pc	35/21/sn
Fort Myers	87/65/t	87/64/s
Fort Smith	68/47/s	69/61/c
Fresno	58/45/t	60/40/pc
Grand Junction	60/43/c	49/30/r
Great Falls	41/26/pc	33/19/sn
Harrisburg	60/33/pc	50/32/s
Hartford	56/28/pc	45/28/s
Helena, MT	39/29/c	37/19/sn
Honolulu	84/73/sh	85/73/sh
Houston	74/60/c	75/71/t
Int'l Falls	27/2/s	34/19/c
Jackson, MS	70/43/s	76/59/pc
Jacksonville	70/49/c	72/55/s
Juneau	48/30/s	44/38/c
Kansas City	58/37/pc	68/59/c
Las Vegas	65/44/c	58/44/c
Lexington	58/33/s	59/49/s
Lincoln	47/33/c	69/51/c
Little Rock	66/43/s	70/60/pc
Los Angeles	60/47/r	57/47/t
Louisville	61/36/pc	64/54/pc
Macon	70/38/s	75/47/s
Memphis	65/44/s	73/60/pc
Miami	87/71/t	83/73/pc
Minneapolis	29/18/pc	38/33/c
Mobile	69/46/pc	77/61/c
Montgomery	70/43/s	77/51/s
Nashville	63/38/s	70/56/s
New Orleans	68/55/c	76/66/pc
New York City	54/31/pc	48/38/s
Norfolk	57/45/pc	53/43/s
Oklahoma City	66/49/pc	64/59/c
Omaha	44/31/c	67/51/c
Orlando	81/59/pc	82/62/s
Palm Beach	85/73/t	81/71/sh
Palm Springs	67/48/sh	64/49/c
Philadelphia	59/34/pc	49/35/s
Phoenix	83/56/pc	64/48/c
Pittsburgh	53/23/sh	47/34/s
Portland, ME	47/30/c	38/25/s
Portland, OR	58/42/pc	53/42/c
Providence	52/31/pc	43/29/s
Raleigh	63/40/pc	67/47/s
Rapid City	38/25/pc	54/23/c
Reno	44/29/pc	50/26/s
Richmond	64/40/pc	58/38/s
Rochester	50/23/sn	38/27/s
Sacramento	53/41/r	63/42/pc
St. Louis	61/38/s	67/56/pc
Salem, OR	57/38/pc	52/40/c
Salt Lake City	57/37/sh	42/31/sn
San Antonio	70/60/c	79/69/t
San Diego	60/52/r	61/50/t
San Francisco	53/45/r	58/48/pc
San Juan	85/72/s	85/73/pc
Santa Fe	63/37/s	65/29/s
Savannah	70/46/pc	75/53/s
Seattle	61/41/pc	54/40/pc
Shreveport	72/49/pc	77/67/t
Sioux Falls	27/23/pc	49/33/c
Spokane	54/35/s	50/33/c
Syracuse	53/25/sh	38/25/s
Tallahassee	72/46/pc	79/54/s
Tampa	84/63/pc	87/66/s
Topeka	61/40/pc	71/59/c
Tucson	83/50/s	65/44/pc
Tulsa	66/48/s	65/61/c
Washington, DC	62/39/pc	54/40/s
Wichita	65/46/s	68/61/c
Wilkes-Barre	59/26/pc	47/29/s
Yuma	80/51/pc	69/46/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice. **POP**: Probability of Precipitation.

WORLD CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	87/70/s	87/70/s
Algiers	77/52/s	76/51/pc
Amsterdam	58/52/r	57/48/sh
Ankara	38/22/c	36/20/sf
Athens	59/44/pc	64/48/pc
Auckland	63/46/s	66/51/s
Baghdad	86/61/pc	76/54/s
Bangkok	96/80/t	97/81/t
Barbados	86/75/s	86/76/sh
Barcelona	65/52/pc	68/56/pc
Beijing	79/44/pc	77/51/pc
Beirut	65/54/pc	62/48/pc
Berlin	49/45/c	63/46/t
Bermuda	71/62/r	67/58/s
Bogota	66/52/sh	67/48/r
Brussels	61/54/r	59/50/sh
Bucharest	48/25/pc	55/36/pc
Budapest	51/36/pc	58/48/pc
Bueno Aires	78/63/r	72/66/s
Cairo	73/54/s	68/52/pc
Cancun	87/72/s	87/75/pc
Caracas	91/74/pc	90/74/s
Casablanca	88/51/s	87/52/c
Copenhagen	44/40/r	50/43/sh
Dublin	59/46/sh	59/46/sh
Edmonton	38/20/c	35/18/c
Frankfurt	58/48/r	63/47/t
Geneva	64/48/c	60/48/r
Guadalajara	90/56/c	88/53/c
Havana	88/68/sh	87/70/pc
Helsinki	30/5/c	32/17/c
Hong Kong	75/68/c	75/67/sh
Istanbul	47/37/pc	51/41/s
Jerusalem	62/45/pc	52/40/c
Johannesburg	74/56/pc	77/54/t
Kabul	54/44/t	53/42/c
Kingston	88/75/s	88/76/s
Kyiv	36/25/c	44/31/s
Lima	82/72/pc	82/72/pc
Lisbon	74/57/pc	69/58/pc
London	59/50/r	59/49/sh
Madrid	79/50/pc	76/50/pc
Manila	93/76/pc	93/78/pc
Mexico City	79/53/t	82/54/s
Monterrey	66/57/c	78/63/c
Montreal	48/20/pc	33/22/pc
Moscow	45/37/r	41/24/pc
Munich	54/46/r	60/44/r
Nairobi	80/60/t	81/60/t
Nassau	84/72/s	82/71/t
New Delhi	90/70/c	87/66/pc
Oslo	36/19/sn	35/30/c
Ottawa	46/17/sn	34/22/s
Panama City	92/71/pc	92/72/pc
Paris	70/52/c	63/51/sh
Prague	45/40/c	59/44/r
Rio de Janeiro	85/75/t	88/77/pc
Riyadh	86/62/s	90/70/pc
Rome	62/46/pc	64/52/pc
Santiago	82/49/s	85/48/s
Seoul	67/36/pc	68/38/c
Singapore	90/78/sh	88/77/r
Sofia	45/33/pc	56/37/pc
Stockholm	30/18/sn	33/27/c
Sydney	82/62/pc	75/57/pc
Taipei	80/62/pc	70/60/t
Tehran	73/52/s	75/56/s
Tokyo	60/50/pc	64/52/s
Toronto	45/22/sn	41/30/pc
Trinidad	86/74/pc	87/75/pc
Vancouver	54/37/pc	52/41/s
Vienna	48/38/c	61/48/r
Warsaw	46/35/pc	56/47/r
Winnipeg	25/7/pc	28/8/c

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INSIDE NATION & WORLD • ARTS & LIVING Plus TV, comics and puzzles

Chicago Tribune

BUSINESS

TENANT
SIGNAGE
120

A rendering of the proposed development at 135 S. LaSalle St. by Riverside Investment & Development and AmTrust RE called the Field Building reveals retail space along Adams Street with new lighting, signs and sidewalks. **RIVERSIDE INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT**

LaSalle Street changes building momentum

Three developers gain financial support from city to convert offices into apartments, retail

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

Empty offices along the LaSalle Street corridor in the Loop may soon be revived into apartments and other uses after sitting vacant due to COVID-19 and the exodus of large firms to newer buildings.

Three developments were chosen to receive financial support from the city on Tuesday through the LaSalle Reimagined initiative, which aims to convert some of LaSalle's 5 million square feet of vacant space into residential and retail use. The city invited developers to submit redevelopment proposals in September, and nine developers originally submitted proposals.

The redevelopment plans are part of a city effort to bring more housing, 30% of it affordable, to the Loop, an area that has historically been out of reach for lower-income individuals, with the city calling the project the largest affordable housing commitment downtown and one of the largest office-to-residential conversions in the entire country in Tuesday's news conference.

The office-to-residential conversions will invest $550 million downtown and are expected to bring more than 1,000 new apartments to the central business district, including 318 affordable units. The sites to receive financial support are located at 111 W. Monroe St., 135 S. LaSalle St. and 208 S. LaSalle St.

"The LaSalle Street corridor is a vital economic engine for our entire city, and we must ensure it remains that way by transforming it from a homogenous office district into a thriving, mixed-use community," said Mayor Lori Lightfoot in a news release Tuesday. "By converting underutilized office space to residential units, we will make the Loop a safer, more dynamic and vibrant place to live and work."

The Loop's estimated population stood at 46,000 in 2022, up nearly 10% from 2020, according to the Chicago Loop Alliance, an advocacy group. A study conducted by the alliance in 2022 found that housing in the Loop is unattainable for many households earning $75,000 or below, with less than 1% of total units, or 239 units, in the Loop designated as affordable and only 23 affordable units currently under construction. There are no affordable apartments on or near LaSalle in the Loop currently, according to the news release.

The redevelopments will receive a range of financial incentives — including tax increment financing dollars (TIF), funds that developers can access to make infrastructure and other community improvements by tapping into funds pooled together by neighborhood property taxes — to help make units affordable. The affordable units are for tenants earning an average of 60% of the area median income or $50,040 for a two-person household, according to the news release.

Some of the goals for each project are to "revitalize an underperforming historic property, provide 30% of the total housing units at affordable levels, and create neighborhood-oriented building amenities that contribute to a dynamic, mixed-use, downtown environment," while meeting minimum diversity requirements for construction teams, according to the news release. This is around 10% more affordable housing per project than would have been required under regular city ordinances.

"As the Loop population continues to grow and the market leverages new housing opportunities in underutilized commercial spaces, these projects are laying a foundation for a dynamic, mixed-use corridor that serves all Chicagoans, regardless of their incomes," said Maurice Cox, department of planning and development commissioner, in the news release.

Built in 1910, 111 W. Monroe St. will be The Monroe Residences & Hotel, developed by the Prime Group, Inc., and Capri Interests LLC. The $180 million building proposal includes 349 apartments on its upper floors and a 226-room hotel on its lower floors with a bar, restaurant and basement parking included.

Built in 1934, 135 S. LaSalle St., known as the Field Building, will be developed by Riverside Investment & Development and AmTrust RE Properties. The $258 million building proposal includes 430 apartments and plans for a grocery store in some of the retail space.

Built in 1914, 208 S. LaSalle St. will be The LaSalle Residences, which will also be developed by the Prime Group. The $130 million building proposal includes 280 apartments with amenities for tenants, as well as a restaurant.

The three finalists will move on to the next phase in the city's development processes, including evaluations by the Community Development Commission, Commission on Chicago Landmarks and City Council, according to the news release. The Department of Planning and Development said the projects are expected to break ground at the end of this year or early next year.

The city will also make additional TIF funding available for projects that meet requirements similar to the ones for the LaSalle Reimagined projects, as well as accept applications in September for private projects that seek to revitalize ground-floor commercial spaces for "neighborhood-oriented uses" with the available $300,000 from the Small Business Improvement Fund, according to the news release. An additional $50,000 will be available for South and West Side businesses looking to expand to the Loop, Cox said at the news conference.

The city narrowed the nine proposals down to six in January. One of the six projects that did not receive city financing was one of the two proposals for 105 W. Adams St., which was a plan proposed by Celadon Partners and Blackwood Group LLC to bring 185 affordable units, or 75% of its units, downtown.

José Duarte, principal for Blackwood Group, said his team is not giving up on its project.

"It's right up the alley in terms of what the city is looking to do in the downtown area," Duarte said. "We will continue to work on any open questions that the city might have on the building and see if we can get it across the finish line."

Nick Peterson, principal for and founder of Maven Development Group — the other developer whose proposal for 105 W. Adams did not receive funding — said his team will likely also pursue the additional TIF funding.

"The deterioration of this building is going to continue … and I think that our project is the most straightforward solution for this building," Peterson said. "We could really make something awesome."

Golub & Co. LLC — one of the developers for the proposed project at 30 N. LaSalle St. that did not receive city financial support today — could not be immediately reached for comment as to whether the team will apply for the additional TIF funds.

Chicago Tribune's Brian Rogal contributed.

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'Fraud of staggering scope'

Closing arguments begin in trial against the founders of startup Outcome Health

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

The founders of the once-lauded Chicago startup Outcome Health lied to clients for years as part of "a fraud of staggering scope and ambition," a government prosecutor alleged during closing arguments Tuesday in the federal trial of three former executives.

Prosecutors kicked off closing arguments Tuesday morning in the criminal trial against former Outcome CEO Rishi Shah, former President Shradha Agarwal and former Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer Brad Purdy, who are accused of perpetrating a $1 billion fraud scheme. The closing arguments come after more than eight weeks of testimony and more than five years after the once high-flying company began to unravel.

Outcome was once one of the most talked about tech companies in Chicago, at one point rising to a reported valuation of more than $5 billion. Outcome placed screens and tablets in doctors' offices and waiting rooms that ran educational content and pharmaceutical ads. Federal prosecutors, however, allege that Shah, Agarwal and Purdy lied about how many doctors' offices had screens and tablets running their content and then used those exaggerated numbers to overcharge drug companies for advertising and inflate revenue figures used to get loans and raise money from investors.

Shah

Agarwal

Shah, Agarwal and Purdy now face charges of mail fraud, wire fraud and bank fraud. All three have pleaded not guilty to the charges, some of which carry sentences of up to 30 years in prison. None of the defendants testified during the trial.

Government prosecutor William Johnston spent the first part of closing arguments Tuesday morning detailing how the trio allegedly hewed closely to a fraud plan that included inflating the numbers of offices where they told drugmakers their ads could play, under-delivering on those promises and then concealing their actions.

Johnston focused, in particular, on Outcome founders Shah and Agarwal's alleged roles in the scheme, aiming to poke holes in one of the defense's main arguments. Defense attorneys have argued that a fourth former employee, Ashik Desai, was responsible for the fraud, and kept information from Shah, Agarwal and Purdy.

Desai has already pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud, and spent more than two weeks testifying earlier in the trial about his actions and those of the defendants.

Johnston, however, spent Tuesday morning describing how Shah and Agarwal were involved in email discussions in 2012 and 2013 about giving pharmaceutical companies lists of offices where their ads could run that included offices with no screens. Those discussions predated Desai's start at the company in late 2013, when he was 20 years old, Johnston argued.

"It was the defendants, not Ashik Desai who started this fraud," Johnston said. In Desai, the defendants found a smart but impressionable worker who would follow

Turn to Fraud, *Page 3*

NASCAR adds Blue Cross as second promotional partner

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

Three months before the green flag turns Grant Park into a pop-up urban racecourse, the NASCAR promotional engine is revving up for the inaugural Chicago Street Race.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois was named a founding partner Tuesday for the racing and entertainment event July Fourth weekend, joining McDonald's as a major Chicago sponsor.

That will put the Blue Cross and Blue Shield brand at the Buckingham Fountain start/finish line and throughout the 12-turn, 2.2-mile racecourse as top NASCAR drivers navigate closed-off streets lined with temporary fences, grandstands and hospitality suites.

The state's largest health insurer will also have official presenting, marketing and promotional rights for the event, which includes the televised Grant Park 220 Cup Series race on July 2, and an Xfinity Series race on July 1.

Blue Cross announced the partnership Tuesday from its offices at Aon Center overlooking Grant Park, which for one weekend will be turned into a temporary Talladega Superspeedway, albeit with more iconic scenery and decidedly lower top speeds.

"Chicago is 95 days away from hosting the inaugural NASCAR Chicago Street Race Weekend," said Stephen Harris, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. "The event will transform downtown Chicago — practically right outside the doorstep of this building — into an epicenter for race fans, music lovers and those who love to celebrate all that Chicago and its glorious lakefront has to offer."

Chicago-based McDonald's was announced as the event's first founding partner last week.

NASCAR anticipates 100,000 attendees will partake in the weekend festival that also includes full-length concerts ranging from country to electronic dance, headlined by Miranda Lambert, The Chainsmokers and The Black Crowes.

Two-day general admission tickets, which include the races and the concerts, went on sale last month, starting at $269.

In November, NASCAR began selling two-day reserved tickets starting at $465. Premium club seats run a lot higher. At the top of the list are temporary hospitality suites perched above the pit road, where tickets for the President's Paddock Club cost more than $3,000 each.

"There's been strong demand, with 60% of the ticket sales coming from outside the marketplace," a NASCAR spokesperson said Tuesday.

Florida-based NASCAR, which became a private company upon completion of its $2 billion merger with International Speedway Corp. in 2019, does not disclose ticket sales, but said several sections of reserved seats in Chicago are sold out.

NASCAR struck a three-year deal to transform the Grant Park environs into a temporary racecourse, paying the Chicago Park District an escalating permit fee, and a share of admission and concession sales.

The course will start on Columbus Drive in front of Buckingham Fountain, taking in stretches of DuSable Lake Shore Drive and South Michigan Avenue.

NASCAR has full access to the racecourse area for nine days prior to and three days after the event.

NASCAR is working with the city to finalize a traffic and event management plan to present to the City Council in the coming weeks.

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New sports wagering code bans college partnerships

Marketing rules also require anyone in betting advertising be at least 21

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The U.S. gambling industry is adopting a new marketing code to promote responsibility that will ban sports books from partnering with colleges to promote sports wagering, bar payments to college and amateur athletes for using their name, image or likeness, and end the use of the terms "free" or "risk-free" to describe promotional bets.

The American Gaming Association said Tuesday that the changes are necessary to keep up with developments in the fast-growing legal sports betting industry, which operates in 33 states plus Washington.

The group is the national trade association for the commercial gambling industry. But the group also follows criticism of the gambling industry from regulators and those who treat gambling addiction; several states are outlawing the kind of betting partnerships covered by the code, and others are taking a renewed look at overall sports betting advertising.

"It has always been important that we get sports betting right," said Bill Miller, the association's president and CEO. "It's always been our No. 1 interest in creating a high bar for responsible advertising and protecting consumers."

He also acknowledged the updated code takes into account things "that the industry has taken some jabs on."

But he said it was always the association's goal to proactively update its marketing code; and that from now on the association will review it annually.

Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, praised the new rules.

"The AGA's code is an important standard for the gambling industry, and we are glad to hear about these updates," he said. "The code is so important because many sports fans are underage, and we also know that people who gamble on sports have higher rates of gambling problems."

The new rules also require that anyone depicted in sports betting advertising be at least 21 years old. They also restrict advertising to media where at least 73.6% of the audience is reasonably expected to be 21 or older.

There are five partnerships between the gambling industry and colleges that promote or advertising sports betting.

They include a deal between Michigan State University and Caesars Entertainment and one between Caesars and Louisiana State University that led to the university sending emails to students — including some who were too young to legally bet — encouraging them to "place your first bet (and earn your first bonus)."

The University of Colorado Boulder's 2020 deal with sports book PointsBet included a $30 referral bonus every time someone signed up on PointsBet with the university's promo code and placed a bet. In January, the university ended the referral bonuses, but the larger deal remains in place.

PointsBet also has a deal with Maryland, and Superbook has one with the University of Denver.

Aaron Nichols poses next to his tractor March 17 in the unincorporated community of Helvetia, Oregon. **ANDREW SELSKY/AP**

Ore. ponders: Factory or farm?

Pending bill could pave way in state's quest to lure chipmakers, provide land for them to build

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. — Aaron Nichols walked past rows of kale growing on his farm, his knee-high brown rubber boots speckled with some of the richest soil on Earth and gazed with concern toward fields in the distance. Just over the horizon loomed a gigantic building of the semiconductor chipmaker Intel.

For exactly 50 years, the farms and forests that ring Oregon's metropolitan centers have been protected from urban sprawl by the nation's first statewide law that placed growth boundaries on cities.

Cities cannot expand beyond those borders unless they make a request and justify it. Approval by cities and counties can take months or even a few years.

Larger expansions also need approval by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

But now, a bill being considered in Oregon's Legislature could authorize the governor to unilaterally expand those boundaries as part of Oregon's quest to lure chip companies and provide land for them to build their factories. The measure would also provide $200 million in grants to chipmakers.

Farmers and conservationists are deeply worried about the proposal and what it will mean for a state that cherishes its open spaces.

"One of the reasons we bought our farm right here is that we knew that for 50 years we'd be farms, and everyone around us would be farms," Nichols said. "And now we're not so sure. Now it's up to one decision by the governor. And that's a scarier place to be."

State officials and lawmakers, on the other hand, are eager to bring more semiconductor factories to Oregon while billions of dollars of federal funding to promote the industry are available.

They were stung by Intel's decision last year to build a massive $20 billion chipmaking complex in Ohio, and not in Oregon where suitable zoned land is scarce.

Oregon has its "Silicon Forest" — a counterpoint to California's Silicon Valley — and has been at the center of semiconductor research and production for decades.

But Oregon is competing with other states to host multibillion-dollar microchip factories, called fabs.

The competition heated up after Congress passed the CHIPS Act in 2022, providing $39 billion for companies constructing or expanding facilities that will manufacture semiconductors and those that will assemble, test and package the chips.

Dramatically expanding semiconductor design and manufacturing in Oregon would create tens of thousands of high-paying construction jobs and thousands of manufacturing and supply chain jobs, the Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force said in a report in August.

But the task force warned that Oregon needs more buildable industrial land near infrastructure, talented workers and specialized suppliers to attract and retain semiconductor businesses, and called for "urgent legislative attention."

"This is about generational change," Democratic state Sen. Janeen Sollman, a chief sponsor of the bill, said during a recent tour of an HP Inc. campus in Corvallis, Oregon. "This is the opportunity that students will have for their future in going into these types of jobs."

US, Japan reach EV agreement on minerals

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan and the United States have reached an agreement on trade in critical minerals for electric vehicle batteries, part of an effort to ensure secure supplies of strategically important resources.

The deal announced is expected to help electric vehicles using metals processed in Japan qualify for tax incentives under President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

The agreement was endorsed Tuesday by Japan's Cabinet.

The Inflation Reduction Act, enacted in August, includes a tax credit of up to $7,500 that could be used to defray the cost of purchasing an electric vehicle but requires such vehicles to have a portion of the critical minerals used in their batteries to be mined in or processed domestically or from countries with which the U.S. has free trade agreements.

Japan and the United States have no such FTA.

Japan and European countries had protested being excluded from joining the American Clean Vehicle Credit program under the law.

The agreement that was expeced to be signed in Washington by U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Koji Tomita, will grant Japan the same treatment as an FTA partner regarding such minerals, Japanese officials said.

The agreement to not impose export duties on trade in lithium, cobalt, manganese, nickel and graphite — all strategically important minerals — is a boon for Japanese automakers and companies like Panasonic, one of the biggest battery makers.

The Treasury Department is expected to release details about tax credits and adjustments to the law soon.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Authorities raid 5 banks in Paris

PARIS — Authorities raided the Paris offices of five banks Tuesday on suspicion of tax fraud, French prosecutors said.

The raids come as part of five preliminary investigations opened in December 2021 on allegations of money laundering and tax fraud linked to dividend payments, the French National Financial Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

French media said the banks were HSBC, BNP Paribas, Exane — a subsidiary of BNP — Societe Generale and Natixis.

The French investigation involved alleged deals in which a foreign investor of a company listed in France transfers its shares to a French bank around the time that dividends are paid out to avoid paying capital gains tax.

Renewables top coal for 1st time

Electricity generated from renewables surpassed coal in the United States for the first time in 2022, the U.S. Energy Information Administration announced Monday.

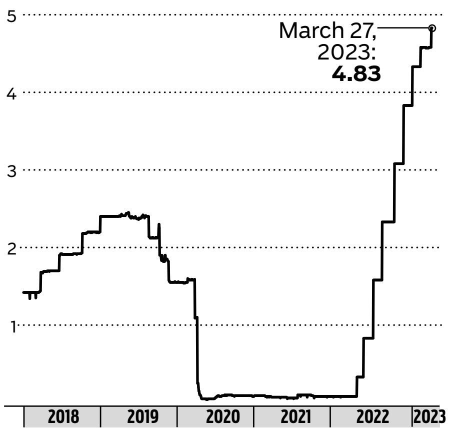
Renewables also surpassed nuclear generation in 2022 after first doing so last year.

Growth in wind and solar significantly drove the increase in renewable energy and contributed 14% of the electricity produced domestically in 2022. Hydropower contributed 6%, and biomass and geothermal sources generated less than 1%.

"I'm happy to see we've crossed that threshold, but that is only a step in what has to be a very rapid and much cheaper journey," said Stephen Porder, professor of ecology and assistant provost for sustainability at Brown University.

Effective federal funds rate

Daily interest rate at which banks lend each other reserve funds



SOURCE: Federal Reserve Bank of New York **TNS**

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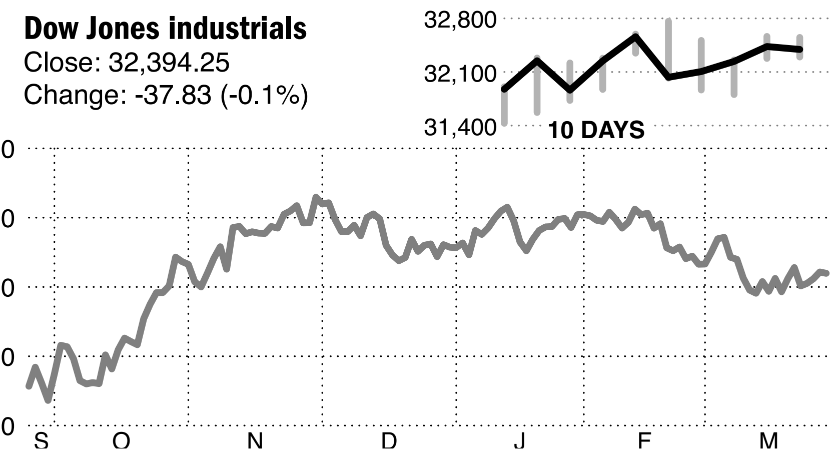
Who's Who in Local Business: Have a promotion or hire you'd like to tell the world about? Go to **placeanad.chicagotribune.com/whos-who**

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow **High: 32,551.01** **Low: 32,295.50** **Previous: 32,432.08**



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 32,394.25
Change: -37.83 (-0.1%)

Nasdaq	
↘	**-52.76** *(-.45%)*
Close	**11,716.08**
High	11,749.41
Low	11,635.03
Previous	11,768.84

S&P 500	
↘	**-6.26** *(-.16%)*
Close	**3,971.27**
High	3,979.20
Low	3,951.53
Previous	3,977.53

Russell 2000	
↘	**-1.04** *(-.06%)*
Close	**1,752.63**
High	1,759.47
Low	1,745.13
Previous	1,753.67

10-yr T-note	**Gold futures**	**Yen**	**Euro**	**Crude Oil**
↗	↗	↘	↘	↗
+.03	**+20.00**	**-.78**	**-.0039**	**+.39**
to 3.57%	to $1,972.40	to 130.80/$1	to .9223/$1	to $73.20

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-.51	-1.21	-.79
↘	↘	↘

30-day % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-.80	+2.27	+.03
↘	↗	↗

1-year % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-8.22	-19.86	-14.26
↘	↘	↘

FUTURES

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 23	698.50	704.75	691.50	699.75	+1.75
		Jul 23	709.50	715.75	703	711.50	+2
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 23	646.75	651.25	644.50	647.25	-1
		Jul 23	628.25	632	626	629.50	-.25
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 23	1441.50	1469.75	1439.75	1467.75	+25.50
		Jul 23	1420	1446.75	1418.25	1444.50	+23.75
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	May 23	54.54	55.22	54.16	55.05	+.50
		Jul 23	54.69	55.28	54.26	55.12	+.47
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	May 23	445.00	458.70	444.80	457.90	+11.90
		Jul 23	440.70	454.20	440.70	453.60	+11.80
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	May 23	72.86	73.93	72.19	73.20	+.39
		Jun 23	72.93	74.04	72.33	73.34	+.41
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu	Apr 23	2.089	2.122	1.998	2.030	-.058
		May 23	2.221	2.260	2.142	2.147	-.068
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Apr 23	2.6843	2.7230	2.6539	2.7121	+.0279
		May 23	2.6541	2.6904	2.6268	2.6805	+.0254

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. *Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ*

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	97.11	-1.35	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	63.91	-.22	Middleby Corp	O	139.42	+1.57
AbbVie Inc	N	158.25	+.71	Equity Residential	N	55.92	-.26	Mondelez Intl	O	69.59	+.43
Allstate Corp	N	106.34	-.65	Exelon Corp	O	40.82	+.30	Morningstar Inc	O	186.34	+2.20
Aptargroup Inc	N	115.02	+1.04	Federal Signal	N	53.02	+1.04	Motorola Solutions	N	272.88	-1.32
Arch Dan Mid	N	78.55	+.80	First Indl RT	N	50.84	-.19	NiSource Inc	N	27.22	+.17
Baxter Intl	N	39.85	-.22	Fortune Brands Innov	N	57.10	+.44	Nthn Trust Cp	O	84.96	+.06
Boeing Co	N	204.96	+4.39	GATX	N	106.70	+.75	Old Republic	N	24.40	+.11
Brunswick Corp	N	78.31	+.19	Gallagher AJ	N	186.52	+.39	Packaging Corp Am	N	134.52	+2.27
CBOE Global Markets	N	131.77	+.31	Grainger WW	N	675.84	+4.18	Paylocity Hldg	O	181.09	-.30
CCC Intellig Solut	O	8.40	-.12	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	104.69	+.49	RLI Corp	N	132.46	+.43
CDW Corp	O	185.82	-5.85	IDEX Corp	N	222.91	+1.18	Ryan Specialty Group	N	38.63	-.02
CF Industries	N	70.27	+.41	ITW	N	234.11	+1.46	Stericycle Inc	O	41.92	+.52
CME Group	O	187.32	+2.30	Ingredion Inc	N	101.57	+1.26	TransUnion	N	58.02	-.30
CNA Financial	N	38.03	+.16	John Bean Technol	N	106.13	+1.37	US Foods Holding	N	36.11	+.27
Caterpillar Inc	N	220.16	+2.16	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	138.28	-1.42	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	531.79	+11.34
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	37.28	+.09	Kemper Corp	N	53.15	-.28	United Airlines Hldg	O	42.41	+.47
Deere Co	N	395.35	+2.34	Kraft Heinz Co	O	38.39	-.21	Ventas Inc	N	43.06	+.15
Discover Fin Svcs	N	94.16	-.23	LKQ Corporation	O	55.25	+.88	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	33.82	+.88
Dover Corp	N	144.33	+1.56	Littelfuse Inc	O	257.96	-.41	Wintrust Financial	O	71.94	+.29
Envestnet Inc	N	54.87	+.28	McDonalds Corp	N	275.85	+2.01	Zebra Tech	O	290.15	+1.29

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alibaba Group Hldg	98.40	+12.28
AMC Entertainment A	5.15	+.60
Carnival Corp	9.33	+.54
Oscar Health Inc	5.61	+2.02
Bank of America	28.12	-.37
Ambev S.A.	2.78	+.12
Fst Republic Bank	13.50	-.32
Credit Suisse Gp	.85	-.01
Ford Motor	11.60	+.08
Silvergate capital	2.08	+.11
Snap Inc A	11.06	-.68
Lumen Technologies	2.65	+.11
Itau Unibanco Hldg	4.56	+.04
Transocean Ltd	6.68	+.48
Kinross Gold	4.59	+.17
Schwab Corp	53.85	-1.01
Uber Technologies	30.07	-.55
Keycorp	12.37	-.12
Occid Petl	62.21	+2.56
AT&T Inc	18.72	-.15
Banco Bradesco ADS	2.51	+.03
Square Inc	63.76	-.64
Citigroup	45.22	+.44
Vale SA	15.28	+.31

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Mullen Automotive	.09	-.01
Tesla Inc	189.19	-2.62
Exela Technologies	.03	-.00
Viking Therapeutics	15.44	+6.32
Adv Micro Dev	94.56	-2.05
Lyft Inc	8.87	-.73
Apple Inc	157.65	-.63
Pyxis Oncology Inc	3.85	+1.15
Amazon.com Inc	97.24	-.80
Intel Corp	29.29	+.11
Nvidia Corporation	264.10	-1.21
Virgin Orbit Hldgs	.38	-.15
Faraday Fut Intllgnt	.35	-.01
Alphabet Inc A	101.03	-1.43
Biodexa Pharmaceutic	.50	+.03
Alphabet Inc C	101.36	-1.70
Bed Bath &Beynd	.79	+.00
Affirm Holdings Inc	9.47	-.75
SoFi Technologies	5.59	-.17
Microsoft Corp	275.23	-1.15
Lucid Group Inc	7.55	-.59
Imperial Petroleum	.20	-.01
Micron Tech	59.28	-.51
Meta Platforms Inc	200.68	-2.16

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3245.38	-6.0/-.2
Stoxx600	444.58	-.1/-.0
Nikkei	27518.25	+41.4/+.2
MSCI-EAFE	2045.56	+14.6/+.7
Bovespa	101185.09	+1526.0/+1.5
FTSE 100	7484.25	+12.5/+.2
CAC-40	7088.34	+10.1/+.1

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alphabet Inc C	101.36	-1.70
Alphabet Inc A	101.03	-1.43
Amazon.com Inc	97.24	-.80
Apple Inc	157.65	-.63
Berkshire Hath B	302.32	+.18
Exxon Mobil Corp	107.12	+1.32
JPMorgan Chase	128.88	+.39
Johnson & Johnson	151.82	-1.48
MasterCard Inc	354.33	-.29
Meta Platforms Inc	200.68	-2.16
Microsoft Corp	275.23	-1.15
Novo Nordisk AS	155.32	+.62
Nvidia Corporation	264.10	-1.21
Procter & Gamble	146.36	+.41
Taiwan Semicon	90.81	+.15
Tesla Inc	189.19	-2.62
Unitedhealth Group	472.58	-9.32
Visa Inc	220.33	-1.48
WalMart Strs	143.61	-.56

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month Disc	4.64	4.75
6-month disc	4.68	4.65
2-year	4.08	4.01
10-year	3.57	3.54
30-year	3.78	3.77

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	$1972.40	$1952.40
Silver	$23.324	$23.054
Platinum	$963.40	$977.10

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	8.00
Discount Rate Primary	5.50
Fed Funds Target	4.75-5.00
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.48

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys . . .

Argentina (Peso)	207.8354
Australia (Dollar)	1.4920
Brazil (Real)	5.1699
Britain (Pound)	.8107
Canada (Dollar)	1.3604
China (Yuan)	6.8745
Euro	.9223
India (Rupee)	82.190
Israel (Shekel)	3.5439
Japan (Yen)	130.80
Mexico (Peso)	18.2495
Poland (Zloty)	4.31
So. Korea (Won)	1299.55
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.36
Thailand (Baht)	34.24

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG IN $	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	28.87	-.01	-8.2
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	47.37	+.06	-6.8
American Funds CptWldGrIncA m	53.04	+.09	-7.8
American Funds CptlIncBldrA m	62.63	+.18	-5.3
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	61.76	+.02	-9.7
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	53.01	-.11	-17.6
American Funds IncAmrcA m	22.20	+.05	-6.3
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	42.38	...	-9.3
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	50.50	+.01	-12.3
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	50.92	-.03	-9.1
Baird AggrgateBdInstl	9.75	-.02	-4.6
Dodge & Cox IncI x	12.35	-.13	-3.1
Dodge & Cox IntlStkI	44.41	+.60	-3.8
Dodge & Cox StkI x	210.57	-2.27	-11.0
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	138.27	-.21	-11.7
Fidelity BCGrowth	128.59	-.79	-20.5
Fidelity Contrafund	12.90	-.04	-15.1
Fidelity GlobalexUSIdx	12.91	+.09	-6.1
Fidelity GroCo	25.16	-.09	-17.6
Fidelity IntlIdxInstlPrm	43.53	+.20	-2.6
Fidelity InvmGradeBd	10.01	-.02	-4.3
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInsPrm	109.77	-.14	-12.6
Fidelity USBdIdxInsPrm	10.36	-.02	-4.6
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdI	9.21	-.02	-5.4
PIMCO IncInstl	10.40	...	-1.0
PIMCO TtlRetIns	8.60	...	-5.3
Schwab SP500Idx	61.12	...	-11.0
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	366.27	-.57	-11.7
Vanguard BalIdxAdmrl	40.53	-.06	-9.4
Vanguard DivGrInv x	34.40	-.09	-5.4
Vanguard EqIncAdmrl	80.13	+.18	-6.7
Vanguard GrIdxAdmrl	123.01	-.50	-17.0
Vanguard HCAdmrl x	84.88	-3.25	-.2
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	13.57	...	+.9
Vanguard InsIdxIns	331.38	-.52	-11.7
Vanguard InsIdxInsPlus	331.37	-.52	-11.7
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	97.62	+.41	-10.9
Vanguard MdCpIdxAdmrl	251.64	+.41	-13.5
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	135.33	+.43	-9.2
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.03	-.02	-.2
Vanguard SmCpIdxAdmrl	87.76	+.14	-12.8
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Fd	26.15	...	-6.6
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	17.23	+.01	-7.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	32.44	+.02	-8.1
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	20.03	+.02	-8.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	35.21	+.03	-8.9
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	23.65	+.03	-9.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	39.19	+.05	-9.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2055Fd	43.73	+.07	-9.4
Vanguard TrgtRtrIncFd	12.55	-.05	-5.5
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	9.65	-.01	-4.6
Vanguard TtBMIdxIns	9.65	-.01	-4.6
Vanguard TtInSIdxAdmrl	28.95	+.19	-7.6
Vanguard TtInSIdxIns	115.75	+.74	-7.6
Vanguard TtInSIdxInv	17.31	+.11	-7.6
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl	95.96	-.13	-12.7
Vanguard TtlSMIdxIns	95.98	-.12	-12.7
Vanguard WlngtnAdmrl	66.70	-.08	-7.8
Vanguard WlslyIncAdmrl	58.59	+.02	-5.6
Vanguard WndsrIIAdmrl	67.22	-.06	-9.1

d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee.
m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee.
Source: Morningstar.

Fraud

from Page 1

their lead and take the fraud to new heights, Johnston alleged.

"It's true, from 2014 onward, Desai was running the day-to-day of the fraud. … He wore many hats and every single one was given to him by Shah and Agarwal," Johnston said. "They empowered him to run the fraud."

Johnston also took aim at Purdy, highlighting an email between Purdy and Desai in 2013, in which Desai tells Purdy he "heavily inflated" metrics related to ads running on tablets and asked Purdy to "let me know whether we should stay away from that." Purdy responded, four days later, saying they should discuss it further the following week.

"If Desai were secretly committing fraud on his own, why would he loop in the COO and seek guidance?" Johnston asked the jury.

Johnston also showed the text of a conversation from 2015 between Purdy and a former analyst and whistleblower. During that conversation, Purdy asked the analyst for certain tablet metrics. The analyst then warned Purdy that, "They're not real," and asked, "Are you sure you're comfortable sharing non-real stats?" Purdy told him to send them anyway, and said, "Well I'm comfortable reusing existing SS data for these purposes."

Johnston argued that the defendants' strategy was to "fake it until you make it," and around 2016, they were ready to "make it." But "professionalizing a company that had flourished through fraud was no easy task."

They sought to take their business to the next level through an audit by well-respected firm Deloitte, he said. As part of that audit, all three defendants claimed to have no knowledge of fraud at the company. The company was then able to secure an $89 million loan with a $20 million line of credit. As a result, Agarwal received a $7.5 million dividend and Shah got a $30 million dividend.

But the company couldn't easily outrun its past, he alleged. A string of analysts left the company, with several citing ethical concerns in their exit interviews or questionnaires. Before a new executive was to start, Shah and Desai traded voice messages around Christmas 2016 discussing ways to deal with under-delivery of screens for clients and affidavits. When the new executive started and discovered the issues, he confronted Shah. Instead of expressing concern, Shah suggested that the executive didn't fit Outcome's culture, Johnston said. That executive left the role after only a few weeks.

Closing arguments are expected to last for another day or two, with defense attorneys taking their turns after government prosecutors. The jury will then deliberate. The jurors have spent eight weeks listening to attorneys and witnesses and looking at communications between company leaders and employees.

The government must prove to the jury that the defendants committed fraud beyond a reasonable doubt, and that they did so with the intent to defraud. The defense has argued that Desai alone was responsible for the fraud, corrupting those who worked beneath him and keeping information from the defendants. They've argued that jurors must consider the fact that Desai could get a reduced prison sentence for testifying in the trial of Shah, Agarwal and Purdy, as part of an agreement with the government.

Outcome and its leaders have faced a number of legal actions in recent years, following a 2017 Wall Street Journal article that exposed the alleged fraud at the company.

Outcome settled a lawsuit by investors in early 2018, after investors alleged the company misled advertisers and investors about the company's performance. At that point, Shah and Agarwal stepped down from daily operations of the company, and, six months later, resigned from their board positions.

In 2019, Outcome, as a company, agreed to pay $70 million to pharmaceutical companies to resolve a federal fraud investigation. As part of the agreement, Outcome admitted that from 2012 to 2017, former executives and employees "perpetrated a scheme to defraud its clients — most of which were pharmaceutical companies — by selling advertising inventory that it did not have," the Justice Department said in a news release.

In March 2021, Outcome combined with company PatientPoint to create a new firm called PatientPoint Health Technologies.

FTX founder charged with paying bribe to China

By Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK — FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried was charged with directing $40 million in bribes to one or more Chinese officials to unfreeze assets relating to his cryptocurrency business in a rewritten indictment unsealed Tuesday.

The charge of conspiracy to violate the anti-bribery provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act raises to 13 the number of charges Bankman-Fried faces after he was arrested in the Bahamas in December and brought to the United States soon afterward.

The indictment was returned Monday.

FTX filed for bankruptcy Nov. 11, when it ran out of money after the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges that he cheated investors out of billions of dollars before his business collapsed.

The alleged bribes stemmed from the operation of Alameda Research.

The indictment said Chinese law enforcement authorities in 2021 froze certain Alameda cryptocurrency trading accounts on two of China's largest cryptocurrency exchanges.

The accounts, it said, contained about $1 billion in cryptocurrency.

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NATION & WORLD

40 die at Mexico detention center

Fire set as part of protest by migrants fearing deportation

By Maria Verza
Associated Press

A woman cries as ambulance medics treat someone she knows Monday in Ciudad Juarez. **OMAR ORNELAS/THE EL PASO TIMES**

MEXICO CITY — Migrants fearing deportation set mattresses ablaze at an immigration detention center in northern Mexico, starting a fire that killed at least 40 people, the president said Tuesday, in one of the deadliest events ever at a Mexican immigration lockup.

Hours after the fire broke out late Monday, rows of bodies were laid out under shimmery silver sheets outside the facility in Ciudad Juarez, which is across from El Paso, Texas, and a major crossing point for migrants. Ambulances, firefighters and vans from the morgue swarmed the scene.

Twenty-nine people were injured and are in "delicate-serious" condition, according to the National Immigration Institute.

At the time of the blaze, 68 men from Central and South America were being held at the facility, the agency said.

Immigration authorities identified the dead and injured as being from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, with Guatemalans being the largest contingent, according to a statement from the Mexican attorney general's office.

Guatemala Foreign Affairs Minister Mario Bucaro said 28 of the dead were Guatemalan citizens.

"We are going to look to find those responsible for this," Bucaro said.

Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said the fire was started by migrants in protest after learning they would be deported.

"They never imagined that this would cause this terrible misfortune," Lopez Obrador said, adding that the director of the country's immigration agency was on the scene.

The detention facility is a short walk from the U.S. border and across the street from Juarez's city hall.

At the facility's doors, Venezuelan migrants gathered Tuesday to demand information about relatives.

Katiuska Marquez, a 23-year-old Venezuelan woman with her two children, ages 2 and 4, was seeking her half brother, Orlando Maldonado, who had been traveling with her.

"We want to know if he is alive or if he's dead," she said. She wondered how all the guards who were inside made it out alive and only the migrants died. "How could they not get them out?"

Marquez and Maldonado were detained Monday with the children and about 20 others. They had been in Juarez waiting for an appointment from U.S. authorities to request asylum. They were staying in a rented room where 10 people were living, paying for it with the money they begged for in the street.

"I was at a stoplight with a piece of cardboard asking for what I needed for my children, and people were helping me with food," she said. Suddenly agents came and detained everyone.

"Immigration grabbed me by the jacket and put me in the truck with my brother and other families," she said.

Everyone was taken to the immigration facility but only the men were placed in the cells. Three hours later, the women and children were released.

Tensions between authorities and migrants had apparently been running high in recent weeks in Ciudad Juarez, where shelters are full of people waiting for opportunities to cross into the U.S. or for the asylum process to play out.

More than 30 migrant shelters and other advocacy organizations published an open letter March 9 that complained of a criminalization of migrants and asylum-seekers in the city. It accused authorities of abusing migrants and using excessive force in rounding them up, including complaints that municipal police questioned people in the street about their immigration status without cause.

The high level of frustration in Ciudad Juarez was evident earlier this month when hundreds of mostly Venezuelan migrants tried to force their way across one of the international bridges to El Paso, acting on false rumors that the United States would allow them to enter the country. U.S. authorities blocked their attempts.

The national immigration agency said Tuesday that it "energetically rejects the actions that led to this tragedy" without any further explanation.

The "extensive use of immigration detention leads to tragedies like this one," Felipe Gonzalez Morales, the United Nations special rapporteur for human rights of migrants, said via Twitter. In keeping with international law, immigration detention should be an exceptional measure and not generalized, he wrote.

As Mexico has stepped up efforts to stem migration to the U.S. border under pressure from the American government, the agency has struggled with overcrowding in its facilities.

Mostly Venezuelan migrants rioted inside an immigration center in Tijuana in October that had to be controlled by police and National Guard troops. In November, dozens of migrants rioted in Mexico's largest detention center in the southern city of Tapachula near the border with Guatemala. No one died in either incident.

Mexico has emerged as the world's third-most popular destination for asylum-seekers, after the United States and Germany. But it is still largely a country that migrants pass through on their way to the U.S.

An estimated 2,200 people are in Ciudad Juarez's shelters, along with more migrants outside shelters who come from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru and El Salvador, according to the Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin.

Judge rules Pence must testify to Jan. 6 grand jury

Order deals Trump's team a legal setback in limiting questions

By Alan Feuer and Maggie Haberman
The New York Times

A federal judge has ordered former Vice President Mike Pence to appear in front of a grand jury investigating former President Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election, largely sweeping aside two separate legal efforts by Pence and Trump to limit his testimony, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The twin rulings Monday, by Judge James Boasberg in U.S. District Court in Washington, were the latest setbacks to bids by Trump's legal team to limit the scope of questions that prosecutors can ask witnesses close to him in separate investigations into his efforts to maintain his grip on power after his election defeat and into his handling of classified documents after he left office.

In the weeks leading up to the Capitol attack by a pro-Trump mob on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump repeatedly pressed Pence to use his ceremonial role overseeing the congressional count of Electoral College votes to block or delay certification of his defeat.

Prosecutors have been seeking to compel Pence to testify about Trump's demands on him, which were thoroughly documented by aides to Pence in testimony last year to the House select committee that investigated the Jan. 6 riot and what led up to it.

This month, Trump's lawyers asked Boasberg's predecessor as chief judge for the court, Beryl Howell, to limit Pence's testimony by claiming that certain issues were off-limits because of executive privilege, which protects certain communications between the president and some members of his administration.

At the same time, lawyers for Pence asked to limit his testimony by arguing that his role as the president of the Senate meant he was protected from legal scrutiny by the executive branch — including the Justice Department — under the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause. That provision is intended to protect the separation of powers.

While Boasberg issued a clear-cut ruling against Trump's attempts to assert executive privilege, his ruling on the "speech or debate" clause was more nuanced, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The judge affirmed the idea that Pence had some protection under "speech or debate" based on his role in overseeing the certification of the election inside the Capitol on Jan. 6. But Boasberg also said that Pence would have to testify to the grand jury about any potentially illegal acts committed by Trump, the person familiar with the matter said.

People close to Pence have said for weeks that they expected he would have to testify to some degree to the grand jury.

Boasberg's decisions concerning Pence came a little more than week after Howell issued a ruling that more than a half-dozen other former Trump administration officials — including Mark Meadows, Trump's final chief of staff — could not invoke executive privilege to avoid testifying to the grand jury investigating Trump's attempts to overturn the election.

Prosecutors have been trying to compel Mike Pence to testify about then-President Trump's demands on him to block or delay certifying the vote in the 2020 election. **STEVEN SENNE/AP**

The ruling by Howell, who stepped down as chief judge March 17, paved the way for grand jury testimony from Meadows; one of his deputies, Dan Scavino; Robert O'Brien, who served as national security adviser; John Ratcliffe, the former director of national intelligence; and Stephen Miller, one of Trump's speechwriters and top advisers.

Trump and some witnesses in the election inquiry have tried for months to limit their scope of grand jury testimony, prompting a pitched behind-the-scenes battle waged — like all issues involving grand juries — in sealed court filings and closed-door hearings.

Pence was one of the last major witnesses to litigate the boundaries of his grand jury testimony. Two of his closest aides — Marc Short and Greg Jacob — were ordered to appear before the grand jury last year, as were two top lawyers in Trump's White House, Pat Cipollone and Patrick Philbin.

In one of her final acts as chief judge, Howell issued a similar ruling in the classified documents inquiry. She ordered that M. Evan Corcoran, a lawyer for Trump, would have to testify to the grand jury conducting that investigation despite assertions of attorney-client privilege he had made on Trump's behalf.

In making her decision, Howell found that prosecutors in the office of the special counsel, Jack Smith, who is overseeing both grand jury investigations, had met the threshold for what is known as the crime-fraud exception.

That allows prosecutors to work around attorney-client privilege if they have reason to believe that legal advice or services were used to further the commission of a crime.

Lawmakers confirm Muslim leader for Scotland in political milestone

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — Humza Yousaf was confirmed as first minister of Scotland on Tuesday, becoming the first person of color to head the Scottish government, and the first Muslim national leader in any Western democracy.

The milestone comes five months after the U.K. got its first Hindu leader in Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Britain's capital city is headed by London Mayor Sadiq Khan, the son of Pakistani immigrants.

All three politicians reflect the accelerating diversification of politics in Britain, a country whose imperialist past has — uncertainly and sometimes painfully — forged a multi-ethnic present.

Yousaf

Lawmakers in the Edinburgh-based Scottish Parliament voted Tuesday to confirm Yousaf, 37, as first minister, a day after he was elected leader of the governing Scottish National Party. Scotland, a country of 5.5 million people, is part of the United Kingdom, but has a semi-autonomous government with broad power in areas including health and education.

In an acceptance speech Monday, Yousaf said he was "forever thankful that my grandparents made the trip from the Punjab to Scotland over 60 years ago."

"As immigrants to this country, who knew barely a word of English, they could not have imagined their grandson would one day be on the cusp of being the next first minister of Scotland," he said. "From the Punjab to our Parliament, this is a journey over generations that reminds us that we should celebrate migrants who contribute so much to our country."

Yousaf was born in Glasgow in 1985. His father's family came from Pakistan, his mother's from East Africa, part of an exodus of South Asian families who faced post-independence discrimination.

At primary school, Yousaf recalled, "there was only me and one other brown face." He attended a private high school, then studied politics at the University of Glasgow — after breaking it to his parents, who had hoped he'd become a lawyer.

Elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2011, he has served in several government roles, most recently health.

Yousaf's Muslim faith drew little comment during the SNP contest.

Instead it was the faith of his opponent Kate Forbes, an evangelical Christian, that attracted attention. She was criticized after disclosing her opposition to same-sex marriage, which is legal in Scotland — and which Yousaf supports.

GOP states add voter photo ID rules

New laws curtail acceptable forms of documentation

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

Ruth Kohake, 82, gave up her driver's license in 2019 and lacks an Ohio-issued ID now needed to vote in the state. **JEFF DEAN/AP**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As Ohio's primary approaches, a strict new photo ID requirement is stirring concerns for military veterans and out-of-state college students, in Amish communities and among older voters.

Other Republican-led states are moving in the same direction as they respond to conservative voters unsettled by unfounded claims of widespread fraud and persistent conspiracy theories over the accuracy of U.S. elections. Critics characterize such requirements as an overreaction that could end up disenfranchising eligible voters.

Ruth Kohake is among those caught up in the confusion over Ohio's law, which is going into effect this year. The retired nurse from Cincinnati gave up her driver's license and her car in 2019. Now 82, she thought she might never have to step foot in another state license agency.

But Ohio now requires an unexpired photo ID in order for someone to vote, and she'll have to get that at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The law adds passports as valid ID, but eliminates nonphoto documentation such as a bank statement, government check or utility bill for registration and in-person voting. Military IDs also are no longer acceptable when registering to vote.

"I'm very, very, very concerned that people are not going to know. They're going to come to vote and they're not going to be able to, or they're going to have to vote provisional," she said. "It's just a very upsetting time. Us old people, we have other things to worry about."

Of 35 states that request or require a photo ID to vote, Ohio is the ninth Republican-controlled state to move to a strict law allowing few to no alternatives, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Fifteen states allow other ways voters can verify their identify, such as an electric bill, bank statement or signature match.

The number of states where voters face strict photo ID requirements is poised to rise in the coming months.

Nebraska lawmakers are in the process of establishing a new photo ID program after voters approved a requirement in November.

In North Carolina, a photo ID requirement declared unconstitutional just three months ago could be revived by the state Supreme Court that has a new Republican majority.

Meanwhile, a new Idaho law, which prohibits students from using college IDs at the polls, drew a recent legal challenge.

Wendy Weiser, vice president for democracy at the Brennan Center for Justice, said the new Ohio law undercuts the GOP narrative about the state having a record of clean and well-run elections.

"Ohio election officials have long been adamant that this wasn't needed, that Ohio had a good system for vetting and rooting out any fraud and the proof was in the pudding," she said.

GOP state Sen. Theresa Gavarone, a supporter of the law, said the change will make it harder to cheat.

It already has led to frustration and confusion, in part because of the fast-approaching state primary May 2.

Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose ordered counties to begin implementing the fast-tracked law so it would be in effect for the primary, though its start date falls within the early voting period. Waiting until fall, LaRose said, "would result in a clear violation of Ohio law."

That decision is not without complications. The free state photo IDs the law provides won't be available until April 7, the law's effective date, despite military and overseas voting already having begun and early, in-person voting set to start April 4.

At the same time, a legal challenge to the law by a Democratic law firm remains unresolved. The lawsuit alleges the law creates "needless discriminatory burdens," including by requiring photo IDs, making it harder to correct minor mistakes on ballots and restricting mail balloting.

Veterans' organizations and county recorders, particularly in the populous, Democratic-leaning counties that include Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, have been vocal about the law excluding county-issued veteran photo IDs, though it does allow military IDs, to vote. They cost less and are valid longer — 10 years — than a driver's license.

"People find reasons to fix something that doesn't need to be fixed," said Larry Anderson, 85, a veteran from Columbus who has found the veteran ID card a convenience. "Veterans could come back from the wars and not have a driver's license and not drive a car, and it just creates more problems for them."

Access issues also have arisen among the roughly 37,000 Amish in Ohio's Holmes County, where the largely conservative voters reject being photographed and often lack other forms of government ID.

Lawmakers allowed for religious exceptions through an affidavit that the law's supporters say will be easy to use, but Holmes County Elections Director Lisa Welch is worried that confusion and extra paperwork could add to the workloads of already stressed boards of elections.

"My biggest concern is the first time through, we get a whole bunch of provisionals (that must be processed separately later)," she said. "I'm the only full-time person in the office right now, and we can't do everything."

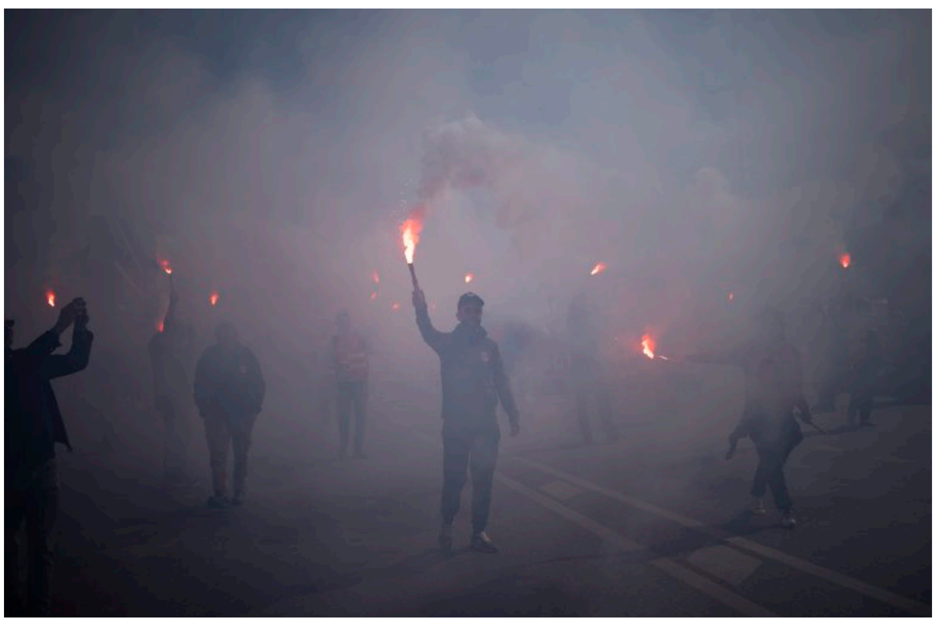
Holmes County Commissioner Joe Miller fears the new process could deter some voters.

"I want honest voting, I understand that, but a lot of the Amish don't have the photo ID and won't do a photo ID," he said. "So what the Amish do usually — they're pacifists, they don't fight anybody — they just walk away."

Ohio State University has advised its roughly 16,000 out-of-state students against voting in person on Election Day — for fear that obtaining the necessary state ID card could invalidate their driver's license in their home state and disrupt their financial aid and residency status. The schools suggests such students casting Ohio ballots do so by mail.

Backers of the photo ID requirements have widely moved away from the argument that such laws prevent voter fraud, which happens only rarely. The conservative Heritage Foundation's database lists only 26 convictions for voter impersonation fraud — the type deterred by photo ID requirements — anywhere in the U.S. between 2004 and 2022. In presidential elections alone, Americans cast more than 645 million votes during that period.

Jason Snead, executive director of the conservative group Honest Elections Project Action, told reporters in a recent policy briefing that robust voter turnout and Democrats' unexpectedly strong performance in the 2022 midterm elections disprove the idea that election security enhancements suppress voters.


Protesters march with flares Tuesday in Marseille, France. The protests prompted President Emmanuel Macron to postpone a state visit this week by King Charles III. **DANIEL COLE/AP**

Police, protesters clash amid stepped-up security in France

By Nicolas Garriga and John Leicester
Associated Press

PARIS — Bolstered French police forces clashed with demonstrators in numerous cities Tuesday as hundred of thousands of marchers protested President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular retirement reform.

Security was ramped up for the 10th round of protest marches since January after the government warned that some demonstrators intended "to destroy, to injure and to kill."

The Interior Ministry put the number of demonstrators nationwide at 740,000, down from more than 1 million five days ago when protesters voiced their rage at Macron's order to ram the bill raising France's legal retirement age from 62 to 64 through parliament without a vote. The Paris police counted 93,000 in Paris compared with 119,000 last Thursday, when violence reached a peak.

In a bid to keep up pressure on the government to simply withdraw its retirement measure, unions organizing the protests called for new strikes and marches April 6.

In a sign that protests may be losing a little steam, sanitation workers in Paris announced they are suspending their more than three-weeklong strike that has left piles of stinking garbage uncollected on the capital's streets.

The CGT union, which organized the strikes, said in a statement that workers will return to their jobs Wednesday.

Concerns that violence could mar the demonstrations prompted what Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin described as an unprecedented deployment of 13,000 officers, nearly half of them concentrated in the French capital.

After months of upheaval, an exit from the firestorm of protest triggered by Macron's changes to France's retirement system looked as far away as ever. Despite fresh union pleas that the government pause its hotly contested push to raise France's retirement age, Macron seemingly remained wedded to it.

His order to use a special constitutional power to ram the reform past legislators without allowing them a vote galvanized the protest movement.

The Eiffel Tower's website announced that strikers had closed down the world-famous tourist attraction. The Louvre Museum was similarly strike-bound Monday.

"I'm protesting because this reform is deeply unfair to workers, women and young people," said Camille Sabatier, 19, a political science student at the Sorbonne.

Macron argues that France's pension system will dive into deficit without reform, because of the lower birth rates and longer life expectancy in many richer nations. Macron's opponents say additional funding for pensions could come from other sources, without having to make workers retire later.

The latest round of protests prompted Macron to indefinitely postpone a planned state visit this week by King Charles III.

Government spokesman Olivier Veran insisted, however, that France remains a welcoming place for all non-royal visitors.

"Life goes on," he said.

Fed official: Bank rules under review in wake of SVB failure

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

Michael Barr, the nation's top banking regulator, testifies at a Senate panel hearing Tuesday. **MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP**

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve's bank supervisors warned Silicon Valley Bank's management as early as the fall of 2021 of risks stemming from its unusual business model, a top Fed official said Tuesday, but its managers failed to take the steps necessary to fix the problems.

The Fed official, Michael Barr, the nation's top banking regulator, said during a Senate Banking Committee hearing that the Fed is considering whether stronger bank rules are needed to prevent a similar failure in the future.

Silicon Valley Bank's management was deficient, Barr said. In particular, he said, the interest rate model the bank used "was not at all aligned with reality."

The timeline that Barr laid out for when the Fed had alerted Silicon Valley's management to the risks it faced is earlier than the central bank has previously said the bank was on its radar screen.

Tuesday's hearing was the first formal congressional inquiry into the March 10 collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and the subsequent failure of New York-based Signature Bank, the second- and third-largest bank failures in U.S. history.

The failures set off financial tremors in the U.S. and Europe and led the Fed and other government agencies to back all deposits at the two banks, even though nearly 90% of both banks' deposits exceeded the $250,000 insurance threshold. The Fed also established a new lending program to enable banks to more easily raise cash if needed.

Late Sunday, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said that resolving the two banks, including reimbursing depositors, would cost its insurance fund $20 billion, the largest such impact in its history. The FDIC plans to recoup those funds through a levy on all banks, which will likely be passed on to consumers.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who leads the committee, suggested that the government's rescue of SVB's depositors had caused "justified anger" among many Americans.

"I understand why many Americans are angry — even disgusted — at how quickly the government mobilized, when a bunch of elites in California were demanding it," Brown said.

Republican members of the committee focused their fire on the Fed and other regulators for failing to prevent SVB's failure. The Fed has been criticized by advocacy groups for not adequately responding to red flags about the bank's management.

"I hope to learn how the Federal Reserve could know about such risky practices for more than a year and failed to take definitive, corrective action," said Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.

Several senators have introduced bills that would tighten bank regulation or raise the FDIC's $250,000 threshold. But given the partisan divisions in Congress on those issues, few expect such proposals to become law.

Silicon Valley's deposits were concentrated in the high-tech sector, which made it vulnerable to a downturn in a single industry. It had bought long-term Treasurys and other bonds with those funds.

The value of those bonds fell as interest rates rose. When the bank was forced to sell those bonds to repay depositors as they withdrew funds, Silicon Valley absorbed heavy losses and couldn't pay its customers.

Barr said that depositors withdrew $42 billion — equal to about a quarter of the bank's assets — on the Thursday before the bank failed. On Friday morning, it faced an additional $100 billion in withdrawal requests.

Barr said the Fed's review of Silicon Valley's collapse will consider whether stricter regulations are needed, including whether supervisors have the tools needed to follow up on their warnings. The Fed will also consider whether tougher rules are needed on liquidity — the ability of the bank to access cash — and capital requirements, which govern the level of funds a bank needs to hold.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said he will support any regulatory changes that are proposed by Barr.

Punishing police tactic in Memphis

It's drawing critics, but vehicle seizures prove to be lucrative

By Jessica Jaglois and Mike Baker
The New York Times

Would-be buyers work their way through cars during a public auction Feb. 28 at the Memphis Police Impound Lot in Tennessee. **BRAD VEST/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — As he drove to work on a summer afternoon in Memphis last year, Ralph Jones saw a woman on the sidewalk flagging him down. Thinking she was in distress or needed a ride, Jones said, he pulled over.

After a brief conversation in which she tried to lure him to a nearby motel, Jones said, he drove away but was soon stopped by police and yanked from his truck.

The welder said that with just 86 cents in his pocket, he had neither the intent nor the money to solicit a prostitute, as the officers were claiming.

His protests were to no avail.

Jones, 70, was cited, and his truck, along with the expensive tools inside, was seized.

The charges were eventually dropped, but the truck and his work equipment remained corralled in a city impound lot for six weeks, when prosecutors finally agreed to return it in exchange for a $750 payment.

"It's nothing but a racket," Jones said.

Police departments around the country have long used asset forfeiture laws to seize property believed to be associated with criminal activity, a tactic intended to deprive lawbreakers of ill-gotten gains, deter future crimes and, along the way, provide a lucrative revenue source for police departments.

It became a favored law enforcement tactic in Memphis, where the elite street crime unit involved in the death of Tyre Nichols on Jan. 7, known as the Scorpion unit, was among several law enforcement teams in the city making widespread use of vehicle seizures.

Like Jones, some of the people affected by the seizures had not been convicted of any crime.

Over the past decade, civil rights advocates in several states have successfully pushed to make it harder for police to seize property, but Tennessee continues to have some of the most aggressive seizure laws in the country.

While some states now require a criminal conviction before forfeiting property, Tennessee's process can be much looser, requiring only that the government show, in a civil process, that the property was more likely than not to have been connected to certain types of criminal activity — a less rigorous burden of proof.

Tennessee allows local law enforcement agencies to keep the bulk of the proceeds of the assets they seize.

And the process for getting property back in the state can be prohibitive for those who have little money or the ability to hire a lawyer: Those who fail to file a claim and post a $350 bond within 30 days automatically forfeit their property.

"Tennessee's forfeiture laws are among the nation's worst," said Lisa Knepper, a senior director of strategic research at the Institute for Justice, a nonprofit law firm that has called for changes in state and federal forfeiture laws.

In Memphis, some of the more than 700 vehicles seized last year were taken from people who were ultimately found guilty of serious criminal charges.

But other residents reported they were compelled to pay large fees to recover their vehicles even when they had not been convicted of any crime.

In 2021, Memphis police Chief Cerelyn Davis came forward with the city's plan to combat growing incidents of reckless driving and drag racing with vehicle seizures.

Police officers said it was on suspicion of reckless driving that they first pulled over Nichols, 29, a Black man who died after a brutal beating by Scorpion officers. Five officers have been charged with murder in the case.

Davis subsequently said that she had seen nothing to support the reckless driving allegation.

Nichols' car was taken to the city's impound lot.

The Scorpion unit was touted for its record of seizing drugs, cash and cars.

In just the first few months of its operations, the city reported the unit had seized 270 vehicles.

Many of the vehicle seizures have revolved around drugs.

In those instances, according to defense lawyers, the agency often seized a vehicle based on a claim that it was being used in a drug operation — a common basis for such seizures in many cities, intended to deprive drug dealers of their profits and the ability to continue their work.

Filing a claim in court requires posting a $350 bond.

Sometimes, defense lawyers said, authorities managing the case may offer to release the car without requiring a court hearing if a person pays a fee that can amount to thousands of dollars.

In Memphis, as in many cities, revenues from such impound and forfeiture fees are returned to support policing activities, becoming a regular source of revenue.

Memphis has not disclosed how much money it generated for the hundreds of vehicles that were forfeited.

The city did report seizing some $1.7 million in cash last year, winning forfeiture of nearly $1.3 million.

A bill pending in Congress proposes new rules that would raise the standards for the government to win forfeiture, give access to lawyers for people trying to recover their property and end profit incentives by sending revenues to the Treasury Department's general fund.

Largest source of stolen guns? It's parked cars

By Richard Fausset
The New York Times

COME AND TAKE IT

Thieves often look for pro-gun insignia inside or on a vehicle. **ERIC RYAN ANDERSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — On a Sunday in January 2022, a Glock 9 mm pistol, serial number AFDN559, disappeared from a Dodge Charger parked near a midtown Nashville bank after someone smashed in the rear driver's side window.

Ten months later, Nashville police officers arrested three teenagers suspected in a series of shootings and discovered a cache of weapons in a nearby apartment. Among them was AFDN559. Forensic analysts would later tie the Glock to three shootings, including an attack in August that wounded four youths and another that wounded a 17-year-old girl in September.

In a country awash with guns, with more firearms than people, the parked car — or in many cases, the parked pickup truck — has become a new flashpoint in the debates over how and whether to regulate gun safety.

There is little question about the scope of the problem. A report issued in May by the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety analyzed FBI crime data in 271 U.S. cities, large and small, from 2020 and found that guns stolen from vehicles have become the nation's largest source of stolen firearms — with an estimated 40,000 guns stolen from cars in those cities alone.

In some cities, organized groups of young people have swept through neighborhoods and areas around sports arenas, looking for weapons left under car seats or in unlocked center consoles or glove compartments. Their work is occasionally made easier by motorists who advertise their right to bear arms with car window stickers promoting favored gun brands or that declare "molon labe" — a defiant message from ancient Sparta, which roughly translates as "come and take them."

Increasingly, thieves are doing just that.

The Everytown researchers found that a decade ago, less than one-quarter of all gun thefts were from cars; in 2020, more than half of them were.

And as the problem has grown, public health officials and lawmakers, including some in Tennessee, have proposed a rather prosaic solution: encouraging or mandating that gun-toting drivers store their weapons in their vehicles inside of sturdy, lockable gun boxes.

Gun control advocates are hoping that the adoption of the boxes in cars will come to be seen as a solution that both sides of the gun debate can accept, much as both sides encourage the use of gun safes and trigger locks in the home.

"I do think that safe storage is where we find a lot of common ground," said Christian Heyne, vice president of policy and programs at Brady, the gun violence prevention organization.

But some experts say widespread adoption of the boxes may require a cultural change akin to the revolution in seat belt use. And it may prove to be even more polarizing than seat belts ever were. The National Rifle Association and other gun rights advocates believe car lockbox mandates to be an onerous burden — a reflection of how the avalanche of guns is creating new sources of conflict.

Many lockboxes are relatively cheap. Simple versions that can attach to the underside of a car seat with a cable can be found for about $40, and some cities have even begun developing programs to give them away.

In Houston, where more than 4,400 guns were stolen from cars last year, the police have given away roughly 700 such boxes this year, according to Houston Police Sgt. Tracy Hicks, and have plans to give away 6,300 more.

Some skeptics doubt even widespread use of the boxes would make much of a dent in gun violence in a nation with more than 400 million firearms in circulation.

"It's like peeing in the Gulf of Mexico," said Peter Scharf, a criminologist at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, which had one of the nation's highest homicide rates in 2022.

In Nashville, the number of guns reported stolen from cars there increased nearly tenfold over the last decade, to a record 1,378 in 2022 from 152 in 2012, according to police data. The city's rate of gun thefts from cars was the 15th highest in the country in 2020, based on FBI figures. The situation was even worse in Memphis, Tennessee's second-largest city, which had the highest rate of gun thefts from cars in the nation that year, according to the Everytown analysis.

It is difficult to know how many stolen guns are used in crimes, in part because only 15 states have laws requiring the reporting of lost or stolen guns. "We don't ask enough where guns used in crime come from," Heyne said.

Tennessee's Republican-dominated state Legislature is considering a pair of bills with bipartisan support that would outlaw leaving a firearm in a motor vehicle or boat unless it is "locked within the trunk, utility or glove box, or a locked container securely affixed."

The only allowable punishment, under the bill, would be enrollment in a court-approved firearm safety course. It is a purposely mild approach engineered to help create buy-in, rather than another culture war battle, said Rep. Caleb Hemmer, a Nashville-area Democrat who sponsored the House bill.

"We're likening it to a speeding ticket," Hemmer said. "We know we're in a conservative state, and we're trying to convince people to be responsible gun owners."

Hemmer believes there is a relationship between the spike in the number of guns stolen from cars in Nashville and the loosening of state gun laws, including a 2021 permitless carry law.

The Tennessee lockbox legislation is already generating controversy, an indication of how steadfastly gun rights advocates oppose nearly any laws that might restrict gun owners.

The legislation is opposed by the NRA.

Amy Hunter, an NRA spokesperson, called Hemmer's bill "feckless" in a statement and said it would discourage theft victims from reporting the stolen guns to the police.

"This law can only be enforced if someone's gun is stolen, the victim then reports the theft and admits the gun was unsecured — at which point the theft victim is charged with a crime," she said.

Rep. John Gillespie, a Memphis Republican who co-sponsored Hemmer's bill, was frustrated by such arguments.

"I'm more than willing to increase the penalties for people stealing a gun," he said. "But are we really that burdened by asking someone to properly lock up their gun in a vehicle so it can't be stolen?"

Laws mandating that guns in cars be locked away are already on the books in some states, including California, Oregon, New York and New Jersey.

A number of similarly themed bills are under consideration in other states, including Hawaii and Florida.

A Virginia bill, introduced by a Democratic senator in that state's Democratic-controlled upper chamber, did not survive the 2023 legislative session, which ended in late February.

NEWS BRIEFING

Judge upholds BSA's $2.4B bankruptcy plan to settle abuse claims

From news services

DOVER, Del. — A federal district court judge has upheld the approval of a $2.4 billion bankruptcy reorganization plan aimed at resolving tens of thousands of child sexual abuse claims against the Boy Scouts of America.

The ruling docketed Tuesday rejects arguments by non-settling insurance companies and attorneys representing dissenting abuse survivors that the reorganization plan was not proposed in good faith and improperly strips the insurers and survivors of their rights.

The ruling follows a September decision in which U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein approved the plan. The plan would allow the Irving, Texas-based BSA to continue operating while compensating tens of thousands of men who say they were sexually abused as children while involved in Scouting.

More than 80,000 men have filed claims saying they were abused as children by troop leaders around the country. Plan opponents say the staggering number of claims, when combined with other factors, suggests that the bankruptcy process was manipulated.

While affirming Silverstein's description of the proceedings as "an extraordinary case by any measure," U.S. District Court Judge Richard Andrews found no fault with her ruling.

"Appellants argue on many fronts that the plan did not meet the requirements for confirmation, and I have carefully considered each of these arguments," Andrews wrote. "Based on the record, the appellants have failed to put forth evidence that would demonstrate clear error in the bankruptcy court's careful findings of facts."

The BSA issued a statement describing the ruling as "a pivotal milestone" that "solidifies a path forward for both survivors and Scouting."

Under the BSA plan, insurance companies, local Boy Scouts councils and troop-sponsoring organizations would receive broad liability releases protecting them from future sex abuse lawsuits in exchange for contributing to the victims' compensation fund — or even for just not objecting to the plan.

Some abuse survivors argued that releasing their claims against non-debtor third parties without their consent would violate their due process rights.

Debt ceiling: House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Tuesday that he's increasingly concerned about President Joe Biden's unwillingness to negotiate on lifting the nation's borrowing authority, saying in a letter to the president that the White House position could "hold dire ramifications for the entire nation."

Rather than open direct talks on the debt ceiling, which the Democrats agree must be raised, Biden and his party's lawmakers are challenging Republicans to publicly present their own budget proposals — something McCarthy has declined to do.

For now, the Treasury Department has resorted to "extraordinary measures" to avoid default on the nation's $31.4 trillion borrowing authority. But those measures will run out — and put the U.S. at risk of being unable to pay all of its bills — possibly as early as June.

The White House has emphasized that Biden is not willing to entertain proposed cuts in programs simply in exchange for lifting the debt limit.

Elephant in the dining room: Vow, an Australian startup, on Tuesday lifted the glass cloche on a meatball made of lab-grown cultured meat using the genetic sequence from a mammoth, an extinct pachyderm, saying it was meant to fire up public debate about the high-tech treat. Cultivated meat, also called cultured or cell-based meat, is made from animal cells. **MIKE CORDER/AP**

California storms: A powerful weather system from the Gulf of Alaska pushed into Northern California on Tuesday, bringing more wind, rain and snow to a state battered by months of storms.

Forecasters warned of heavy snow in coastal mountains and the Sierra Nevada, where accumulations up to 4 feet were possible, highway chain requirements took effect and a backcountry avalanche warning was issued for the greater Lake Tahoe area.

Damage since the onslaught began in late December includes buildings crushed by snow, flooding of communities and farm fields and homes threatened by landslides.

Russian justice: A Russian court Tuesday convicted a single father over social media posts critical of the war in Ukraine and sentenced him to two years in prison — a case brought against him after his daughter's drawing at school opposed the invasion, according to his lawyer and activists.

But Alexei Moskalyov fled house arrest before his verdict was delivered in his Russian hometown of Yefremov and is at large, court officials said.

His 13-year-old daughter Maria, who has been taken from him by the authorities, wrote him a supportive letter for his trial from the orphanage where she is living, according to his lawyer, telling him, "Daddy, you're my hero."

Moskalyov's case has drawn international attention and was a grim reminder that the Kremlin is intensifying its crackdown on dissent, targeting more people and handing out harsher punishments for any criticism of the war.

Moskalyov, 54, was accused of repeatedly discrediting the Russian army, a criminal offense in accordance to a law Russian authorities adopted shortly after sending troops into Ukraine.

Stabbings in Portugal: A man wielding a large knife killed two Portuguese women and wounded several other people at an Ismaili Muslim center in Lisbon on Tuesday, authorities said. Police said they were investigating the stabbings as a possible terror act.

Portuguese authorities described the man as a refugee from Afghanistan who was receiving help from the Ismaili community. Local Afghan community representatives said the suspect was known to have psychological problems after his wife died while their family was at a refugee camp in Greece.

While police said they were investigating Tuesday's violence as a possible extremist act, Portuguese Interior Minister Jose Luis Carneiro publicly urged caution, saying any "hasty analysis" should be avoided.

The women who died were Portuguese staff members at the center, Ismaili community leader Narzim Ahmad told Portuguese TV channel SIC.

No extradition: France's highest court ruled Tuesday against extraditing 10 former far-left militants who were convicted of attacks in Italy carried out in the 1970s and 1980s.

The two women and eight men fled Italy after their convictions and before they could be sent to prison. Now ranging in age from 62 to 79, they have lived freely in France for decades.

The crimes of which they were convicted include the killing of a Carabinieri paramilitary general and the kidnapping of a judge, both in 1980.

A Paris court also had ruled against their extraditions, and the decision was appealed last year. But Tuesday's decision by the Court of Cassation is the final French legal ruling on the decadeslong affair.

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ARTS & LIVING

Hubbard Street Dance in “Busk” by Aszure Barton. **DANICA PAULOS PHOTOS**

REVIEW HUBBARD STREET DANCE’S ‘SPRING SERIES: ELEMENTS’ ★★★½

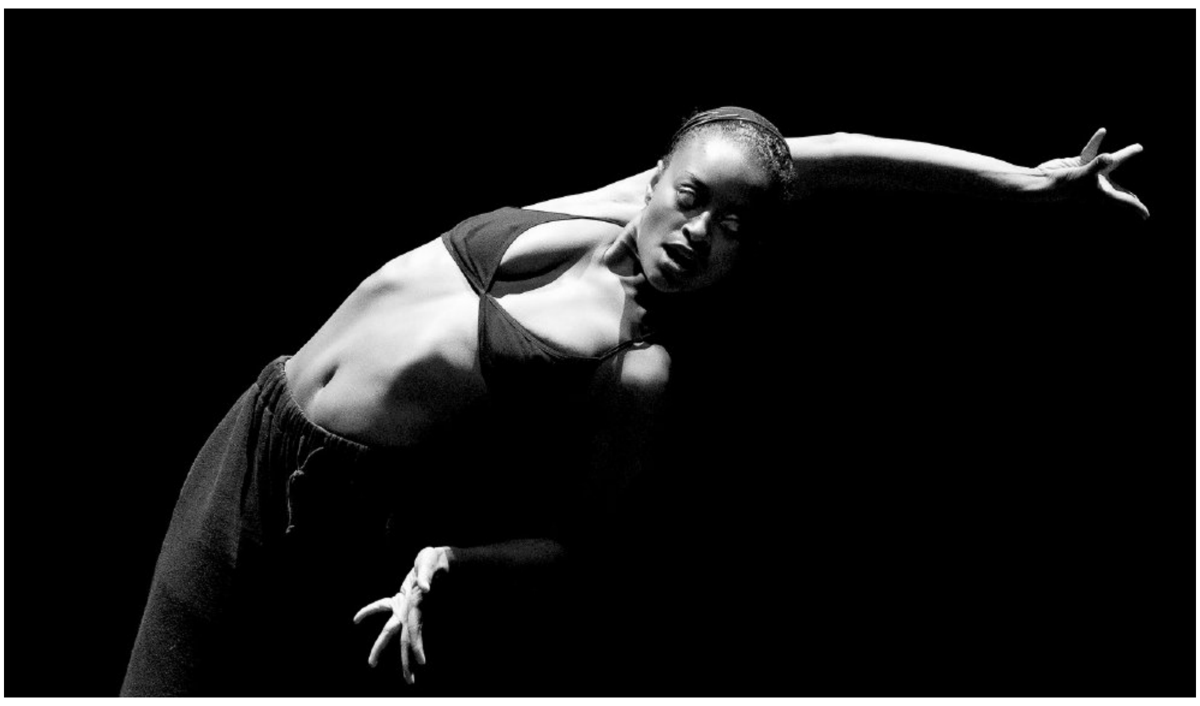
Coltrane, Edgar Allen Poe and a ‘show pony’

By Lauren Warnecke
For The Chicago Tribune

It will be difficult to get a seat for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s spring series, but it’s worth it to try. The company routinely sells out their annual two-week production at the Museum of Contemporary Art; with the kind of momentum and popularity they’ve got going these days, it was unsurprising to see the 300-seat Edlis Neeson Theater filled to the gills Thursday night.

Under the ambiguous moniker “Elements,” Hubbard Street’s spring series continues March 30 to April 2 in a separate program.

The evening opens with the company premiere of “Coltrane’s Favorite Things,” created by Lar Lubovitch in 2010. Steeped in a midcentury modern aesthetic, the piece riffs off the title track to John Coltrane’s brilliant 1961 album, “My Favorite Things.” Somehow, Coltrane made raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens sound cool. Lubovitch’s treatment is inspired by an enormous Jackson Pollock painting splashed with steel, gray and mustard hues. These are echoed in the dancers’ costumes (by Nathan Rohrer), which nonsensically pair gray velour tops and business casual button-downs with cropped athleisure pants and Dijon-tinted sneakers. I don’t know how, but it works; by drawing the color palette down to eye level on the dancers, Lubovitch’s lilting waltz steps and sweeping, splattered phrasework serve as a three-dimensional extension of Pollock’s backdrop. With all of this layered over a tinny recording of Coltrane’s “Favorite Things” and joyful performances from a cast of nine (including the remarkable pair Alexandria Best and Shota Miyoshi), Lubovitch serves up Composition 101: a primer on crafting a piece that coalesces in every possible way.



Hubbard Street dancer Alysia Johnson in “Busk” by Aszure Barton.

Tucked in before intermission is Kyle Abraham’s bite-sized solo called “Show Pony,” quietly added to Hubbard Street’s repertoire this winter. To this critic’s knowledge, this is the first time we’ve seen this juicy morsel here in Chicago. On opening night, the so-called “show pony” was the stunning Alysia Johnson (who splits the role with Cyrie Topete and Abdiel Figueroa Reyes). Johnson is perfect; true to the title, she oscillates between ambivalence and obstinance. Dashes of exquisite technique are fractured by long stretches of dressage-like trots and poses. She pats her chest and gazes directly at us, with occasional teases of wild

Turn to Hubbard, *Page 9*

REVIEW ‘BABEL’ ★★½

Expecting couples face eugenics and AI in a dystopian future

Shannon Leigh Webber (Dani) and Monique Marshaun (Renee) in “Babel” from Redtwist Theatre. **TOM MCGRATH**

By Emily McClanathan
For the Chicago Tribune

Like much dystopian fiction, Jacqueline Goldfinger’s “Babel” takes factual elements of a society’s past or present and imagines how they might play out in the future. In this case, the playwright hones in on eugenics — a dark part of our nation’s history — and artificial intelligence, an increasingly pressing issue in the present day. In its current production at Redtwist Theatre, directed by Rinska Carrasco-Prestinary, the play raises important questions with the aid of some clever dramatic devices but is less successful in its attempt to capture the human cost of striving for utopia.

Set in what is presumably the future United States (although the location isn’t named), “Babel” centers on two expecting couples, one who has been trying to get pregnant for eight years, the other happily surprised. However, a positive pregnancy test, even when greatly desired, immediately leads to anxiety about “pre-certification” — a mandatory process of in-utero testing to determine the physical, cognitive and behavioral desirability of the fetus’s genetic code. These standards have curbed a host of societal ills, from mass shootings to cancer, and ensured population control in the face of dwindling resources and climate change.

All the adults in this society are certified — all the visible ones, anyway — meaning their genes have passed muster in each of the three categories. Despite the careful pairing of certified partners, pregnancy is still a gamble; should a fetus fail the pre-certification process, the parents are strongly encouraged to terminate. Alternatively, they can put their child through rehabilitation and try to have them certified later, but those who do so risk ostracization and, of course, potential failure.

When Dani (Shannon Leigh Webber) and Renee (Monique Marshaun) get the news that their long-awaited pregnancy has failed pre-certification, their marriage quickly spirals into crisis. A powerful female executive, Dani is a true believer who voted to make certification the law of the land. Surely, the doctor must be wrong in her family’s case. “It doesn’t apply to us,” she insists.

Meanwhile, Renee reveals that she has always doubted the wisdom of the certification laws. “Who gets to play God?” she wonders, as this question takes on new immediacy in her own life. As she agonizes over what

Turn to ‘Babel,’ *Page 9*

CELEBRITIES

Questlove to direct 'Aristocats' remake

From news services

A year after winning the Academy Award for best documentary feature, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson has lined up a directorial gig: the live-action adaptation of Disney's "The Aristocats."

The new remake of the 1970 animated movie will be "a live-action/hybrid re-imaging," according to Deadline.

With Monday's announcement, Questlove wrote on Instagram: "I basically have 2 life goals: 1. Don't dismiss my dreams & 2. Get out of my own way."

Questlove, also known as the co-founder of the Roots, will also serve as the movie's executive producer and oversee the music.

The original "Aristocats" film follows the story of French felines kidnapped by their owner's butler to prevent them from inheriting their fortune. Banished to the countryside, the cats befriend a tomcat in an effort to return home before it's too late.

Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, seen March 12, will also oversee the music on "The Aristocats" remake. **MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY**

Majors charged with assault, harassment: Jonathan Majors was charged with misdemeanor assault and harassment, a day after he was arrested in New York City.

According to the complaint from the Manhattan district attorney's office, the actor was arraigned Sunday. In the complaint, the alleged victim said Majors did "strike her about the face with an open hand, causing substantial pain and a laceration behind her ear." The woman was not identified.

Majors, 33, also allegedly grabbed the woman's hand, "causing swelling, bruising and substantial pain to her finger," and "put his hand on her neck."

A legal representative for Majors did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The complaint also says a judge released the actor on his own recognizance and granted a limited order of protection. Majors' next court date is May 8.

Rosalia, Alejandro engaged: Rosalia and Rauw Alejandro revealed their engagement Friday in the music video for their new song, "Beso," a single from their joint EP, "RR."

In the final seconds of the video, Rosalia appears in a low-lit selfie video wiping away smeared mascara and showing off her engagement ring. She then turns the camera to say, "I love you" and to give Alejandro a kiss.

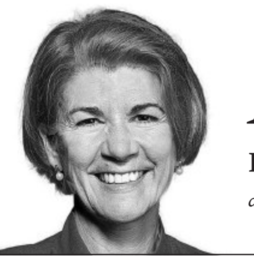
The Spanish flamenco singer and Puerto Rican pop star, both 30, also shared the snippet on their Instagram accounts.

CBS News' Duthiers promoted: CBS News has promoted Vladimir "Vlad" Duthiers to featured host of its daily morning program.

The Peabody and Emmy-winning journalist has long contributed to "CBS Mornings" as a correspondent, guest anchor and host of the show's "What to Watch" segment, which he will continue to helm in this new position.

In addition, Duthiers, who joined CBS in 2014, will keep his role as anchor of "CBS News Live" on the CBS News Streaming Network.

March 29 birthdays: Comedian Eric Idle is 80. Actor Bud Cort is 75. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 68. Actor Marina Sirtis is 68. Singer Perry Farrell is 64. Comedian Amy Sedaris is 62. Model Elle Macpherson is 59. Director Michel Hazanavicius is 56. Musician John Popper is 56. Actor Lucy Lawless is 55. Actor Megan Hilty is 42.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Newlywed struggles to learn how to say 'no'

Dear Amy: I am in my first year of marriage, trying to navigate a tricky in-law situation.

My mother-in-law does a lot of taking and not a lot of giving. This dynamic is increasing at a fast pace. Not only does she ask for my help constantly, but she also makes everything complicated and frustrating for everyone involved. She will not tolerate being told "no." She becomes passive-aggressive and at times has been mean enough to make me cry.

In the last month, I have (involuntarily) assisted her in planning a birthday party for a woman I have never met. My husband and our toddler son even traveled four hours away to attend the party because she would not take "no" for an answer.

Now she has asked that I help her make a scrapbook for this same stranger, using my wedding photos, which would involve hours of work.

She never offers to help with our son, even though she lives five minutes away, is retired and in excellent health. I have a lot on my plate. I get no privacy and no alone time with my husband. I'd love to have a date night, but she always claims to be so busy, while I'm just down the road pulling my hair out!

— *Daughter-in-Law in Training*

Dear Daughter-in-Law: You are going to need to establish very firm boundaries with your mother-in-law, basically training her (and yourself) toward a new way of relating and communicating.

Have a meeting with your husband to discuss your concerns and intentions. Keep in mind that she is his mother and that his attachment to her is one you should respect, but unless this current dynamic changes, it will negatively affect your marriage. Let him know that you need to reduce your own frustration and anger when you feel pressured to do her bidding.

This should start with you learning to say "no" and managing your own fears regarding the way your mother-in-law might respond or retaliate.

Be both frank and polite — even if she is not. When you have asked her to help you out, she declines. Let her teach you by example: "Sorry, but I'm busy." "I'm going to have to say no." "I'm going to say no. I have a lot on my plate."

Rehearse responses and train yourself to stay calm. Do not lay on layers of excuses or details. If you need a date night, hire a babysitter.

Author Susan Forward has called this type of mother-in-law "the Engulfer." You might benefit from reading her book, "Toxic In-Laws: Loving Strategies for Protecting Your Marriage" (HarperCollins, 2010).

Dear Amy: I'm a woman in my mid-30s living and working in a major metropolitan area. My problem is that I am not social media-savvy and don't wish to be, but I feel that I am missing out on many social opportunities as a result.

I find the concept of sharing even happy news over social media as attention-seeking. I would much rather have old-fashioned phone calls or get-togethers with friends to keep each other in the loop about what's going on in our lives.

But most people I know use Instagram, etc., and as a result, I'm usually the last to know what's going on in their lives. Should I bite the bullet and start using these platforms, even though I find it daunting, or should I stick to my principles?

— *Old-Fashioned*

Dear Old-Fashioned: Every new technology and communication system creates challenges. You seem to believe that being on social media platforms necessitates that you share your own news. That is not the case.

You can have a presence on Instagram, follow your friends' accounts and see their posts without sharing your own. You can then follow up with phone calls and in-person meetings without feeling that you're out of the loop.

Dear Amy: "Concerned Bride" had gotten married privately and was now planning a "celebration," many months later. Your advice was OK, but you referred to her upcoming event as a "wedding." She has already had a wedding — the next event on her calendar is a reception.

— *Concerned Reader*

Dear Concerned: You're right! I mistakenly referred to the reception as a "wedding." I apologize for the error.

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Lord Huron, Regina Spektor, Andrew Bird set as the headliners at Out of Space 2023

By Kayla Samoy
Chicago Tribune

The Out of Space music festival returns for its sixth year with a four-day lineup featuring Lord Huron, Regina Spektor, Andrew Bird, and Lucius and Dawes as headliners.

The July 27-30 festival will be held on the fairway at Canal Shores Golf Course in Evanston. Tickets will be available to the general public at 10 a.m. Friday.

Emerging acts Allie Crow Buckley, Allison Russell and Uwade will perform opening sets, and more artists are still to be announced.

Out of Space is presented by Evanston music venue Space, which is partnering this year with the Winnetka Music Festival.

That event, which is scheduled for June 16-17 in downtown Winnekta, will feature acts including The Wallflowers, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Madison Cunningham and Neal Francis.

Out of Space music festival is July 27-30 at Canal Shores Golf Course, 1030 Central St., Evanston; tickets are $45-$60.50 for GA and $125-$160.50 for VIP at outofspaceconcerts.com

Regina Spektor headlines the Out of Space music festival in Evanston. **BILL RICHERT**

Hubbard

from Page 8

abandon. In moments, Johnson — wearing Fritz Masten's shimmery, iridescent unitard — seems more in control of us than herself. I wanted more of that; at the same time, "Show Pony's" restraint is what makes it so darn good. This is Abraham at his best, delivered by a dancer at the pinnacle of her career.

The program's B-side is moodier, beginning with "Nevermore," a new work from choreographer Thang Dao. Dao leans heavily on Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven;" composer James G. Lindsay goes so far as to fold an eerie recitation of Poe's narrative poem into his sprawling, cinematic score. Dancer Elliot Hammans, dressed in drapey white pants and poet shirt, is framed as the protagonist, seated in a human armchair at the back of the stage. Hammans periodically rises, creating a spooky silhouette on the theater's back wall. The rest of the company emerges as a flock of Poe's eponymous birds — their all-black kimonos (by Calvin Tran and Neftaly Silva) accentuated by a silvery collar and pop of bright red socks below. Ravens get a bad rep; here, Dao sympathetically positions them at the center of the story, giving the ensemble long, luxurious dance phrases peppered by staccato head pokes and avian finger flutterings.

Dao runs parallel narratives through the piece, with "Raven" in the foreground and the Chinese folk tale "The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl" underneath. So, when Jacqueline Burnett emerges in radiant red, it is unclear whether she is Poe's Lenore or Zhinu, the Chinese goddess of weaving, who descends from the clouds and marries the cowherd Niulang. As the score swells, Hammans and Burnett act out a love story. It's all a bit literal for my taste, but Dao does manage to blur the lines between East and West to effectively promote the idea that love, pain and grief are universal experiences. Lighting designer Matt Miller's bold, contrasting color palette amps up "Nevermore's" macabre feel and thankfully tones down its schmaltz; the piece comes across more like a Tim Burton film than a Danielle Steel novel.

In what is becoming a signature finale for Hubbard Street, Aszure Barton's "Busk" closes the evening — the only piece of the four repeated next weekend. (Program B includes a world premiere by former Alvin Ailey dancer Hope Boykin and revivals of Osnel Delgado's "The Windless Hold" and Spenser Theberge's "Ne Me Quitte Pas."). A bonus of the pint-size Edlis Neeson Theater is seeing the terrific facial expressions baked into "Busk," which sometimes get lost in a bigger house. Indeed, choreographer Barton jam-packed her masterpiece with tiny details. You can't possibly take it all in at once — or in one sitting. So for now, I could watch "Busk" again and again (and again and again).

Lauren Warnecke is a freelance critic.

When: A separate program March 30 to April 2
Where: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.
Running time: 2 hours, 10 minutes
Tickets: $35 standby tickets available from MCA box office (regular admission sold out); hubbardstreetdance.com

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'Babel'

from Page 8

to do with her pregnancy, an anthropomorphic stork (Michael Sherwin) tries to influence her decision in a series of hallucinatory visions. These bizarre episodes add levity to a show that's billed as a dark comedy but leans heavily toward the dark.

The other couple, Ann (Soleil Pérez) and Jamie (Sherwin), is best friends with Dani and Renee, although you wouldn't know it from some of their chilly interactions. It's clear that suspicion and surveillance are part of their everyday lives. Throughout the show, actors make their entrances and exits with robotic movements, eyes straight ahead, while stark red and blue lighting (by Cat Davis) and ominously cheerful voice-overs promoting the certification program (sound design by Jake Sorgen) reinforce an ever-present Big Brother.

Jamie also has his doubts about the certification laws, for reasons that become clear later in the play. As the two couples try to make decisions about their futures, they debate issues of bodily autonomy, nature versus nurture, the dice toss of genetics and the caste system that they live under. Referencing the biblical tale of human hubris and divine wrath for which the play is named, Renee says to Dani, "Remember Babel? Brought down a civilization and broke the world."

This discourse, while thought-provoking, often feels more academic than emotionally grounded in the high stakes that these characters face. Elements of the story remind me of Celeste Ng's acclaimed 2022 novel "Our Missing Hearts," which is also set in a dystopian United States, albeit one that enforces McCarthyite patriotism rather than genetic perfection. Ng's novel and Goldfinger's play both center on families whose lives are upended by oppressive regimes, but in "Babel," world-building gets in the way of deeper character development.

Michael Sherwin (Stork) and Monique Marshaun (Renee) in "Babel" from Redtwist Theatre. **TOM MCGRATH**

Nevertheless, the play addresses significant ethical questions through the lens of an imaginary, yet plausible, future. Since 2020, when Redtwist first planned to produce it, the legislative landscape surrounding reproduction has drastically changed in the U.S. — not in ways that directly parallel the world of "Babel," but enough to make its concerns about individual autonomy all the more urgent.

Emily McClanathan is a freelance critic.

When: Through April 30
Where: Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Running time: 1 hour, 35 minutes
Tickets: $40 at redtwisttheatre.org

Steady audience sticks with not-so-young soap

'Young and Restless' turns 50, reigns as No. 1 daytime drama

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

It all started on a late morning on a highway. A camera panned to the cab of a large semi-trailer truck. The driver wore a plaid shirt and a day's growth of beard. Next to him was a mysterious hitchhiker in expensive clothes that were ripped and a fresh head wound.

He got out at Genoa City. And he stayed.

That's how "The Young and the Restless" began on March 26, 1973, and a lot of people also stuck around Genoa City. The soap opera is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the No. 1 daytime drama for 35 consecutive years, with fans growing up alongside the actors.

"I think a huge reason why the audience has stuck with us for so long is because we are the same people. We are family members. We show up every day — sometimes more than a regular family member," says Lauralee Bell, a star and daughter of the show's founders.

Created by the late William J. Bell and Lee Phillip Bell, "The Young and the Restless" concerns the goings-on of several Midwestern families, some of whom have a lot and some who don't. William J. Bell was head writer for decades, giving the show a singular vision, unusual for soaps.

Lauralee Bell, an Emmy winner who plays good-girl Christine Blair Williams and first joined the show in 1983, says her dad would likely not be surprised by the show's new milestone. "He said if you have two families that come from different backgrounds and good, solid characters, it's endless material."

Eric Braeden and Melody Thomas Scott attend the 50th anniversary celebration for "The Young and the Restless." **CBS**

The CBS soap has helped launch the careers of such prime-time and film actors as Vivica A. Fox, David Hasselhoff, Adam Brody, Tom Selleck, Penn Badgley, Shemar Moore, Eva Longoria and Justin Hartley. Eric Braeden plays the male lead Victor Newman, a villain of the highest quality who once kept his wife's lover locked in his basement.

Professor Elana Levine, who teaches media studies at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and wrote "Her Stories: Daytime Soap Opera and US Television History," says the staying power of soaps is that they get passed down from one generation to the next.

"What streaming TV has shown us is that serialized narratives and stories that continue from episode to episode are really appealing and engaging," she says. "Soaps did that before anybody and are the maximum version of that because the story is going for decades."

Among the cake-flinging food fights and evil twins on "The Young and the Restless," there have also been important firsts — it aired the first live face-lift on TV in 1984. It became the first daytime drama with a character who had a mastectomy, it was the first soap opera to broadcast in high definition, and it welcomed leading Black actors in the 1980s before many other soaps.

"'The Young and the Restless' attracted a big African American audience starting at that time because they were putting Black characters, front center, more so than some of the other soaps were," says Levine.

That's a legacy Bell is proud of, and she puts it squarely as a result of her parents, whom she calls hard-working creators who demanded a lot from their writers and actors, even their kids.

"My dad was not afraid of being first. All the social issues he dealt with — date rape, AIDS, alcoholism, all of that. He really felt that if our audience bonded with these characters that they would learn," says Bell. "If we could even help one person, it was worth it."

Show veteran Melody Thomas Scott recalls a story that featured infant CPR, which is nothing like the adult version. "I think Bill and Lee wanted the world to know the difference," she says. On the soap, a baby swallows a coin, and Scott's Newman — of course — becomes the hero by showing viewers the correct CPR technique.

"We got so many calls in our 'Y&R' office the day after that episode aired, some mothers in tears, so grateful," she says. "That is the ultimate goal of sneaking in some social issues because it can save lives. It can change people's lives."

One of William Bell's hallmarks was telling stories in real time, for instance waiting for a couple's first hand-holding, then waiting a while before their first kiss. "If the audience doesn't believe it and grow with them, it's hard to buy sometimes," his daughter says. The soap always stayed in the realm of reality: No getting possessed by the devil in Genoa City.

Scott is celebrating her 44th year on the show as Nikki Newman, a poor girl from the wrong side of the tracks. Her character has gone from a tempestuous, alcoholic stripper to the serial's luminous and resourceful leading lady.

She says the show has stayed true to William Bell's vision of a show with compelling characters played by beautiful people. Visually, the soap has stayed lush and elegant, with plenty of fresh flowers or candles on set.

The Bell family has continued to be part of the DNA of modern soaps, with Lauralee acting, her brother Brad serving as executive producer and head writer for sister soap "The Bold and the Beautiful," and brother Bill Jr. as president of the family production companies who made a deal for "The Young and the Restless" to be seen overseas, with versions in Israel, Canada, Turkey and France, among others.

"It was one of the first daytime soaps that got sold internationally," says Levine. "I think that has been a key to its continued success and profitability. The money that any daytime soap brings in domestically has lessened over time, and the audience has gotten smaller."

If any viewers need convincing that "The Young and the Restless" has penetrated popular culture, look no further than Mary J. Blige, who sampled the show's theme song in her 2001 hit "No More Drama."

That mysterious man in the first scene was Brad Elliot and ahead of him was plenty of drama — a love triangle with a pair of sisters, a marriage, the heartache of a miscarriage, a diagnosis of blindness and a divorce petition. Surgery restored his sight, but his marriage never recovered. He left Genoa City after five years. The show continued.

When Lauralee Bell looks at the TV landscape today, she sees variations on what her parents created in prime-time shows such as "The Crown" and "Succession."

"Every show is a soap, every nighttime show is a soap, all of these streaming shows are versions of soap operas," she says. "So we're all sort of a little tired of the soaps-are-on-their-way-out — well, every show is a soap, really."

Snook feels 'huge sense of loss' as show wraps

Actor hesitated to join 'Succession,' but her role proved to be essential to world

By Meredith Blake
Los Angeles Times

When she was first approached about playing Siobhan "Shiv" Roy, the only daughter of a ruthless but ailing media tycoon in HBO's "Succession," Sarah Snook was apprehensive of the project despite its obvious pedigree.

As a performer on the rise thanks to a string of award-winning film and TV roles in Australia and a well-received turn in the 2015 biopic "Steve Jobs," Snook was wary of being marginalized in a show that, at first glance, seemed to be about "a bunch of white men in business."

"Do I want to be a prop in this story that doesn't focus on me at all?" she recalled recently. "I read the pilot and went, 'I want to watch this, but I don't know if I want to be in it.'"

Snook's trepidation was understandable, particularly given the gender dynamics of prestige TV circa 2016 when, as she put it, "'Game of Thrones' was huge, and there was a leaning across the board in TV for more female nudity." Thankfully, it also turns out to have been misplaced: Shiv has proved to be an essential player in the cynical, male-dominated world of "Succession," which recently returned to HBO for its fourth and final season.

Snook said that, despite indications throughout production that the show might be winding down, she was not officially informed that show was ending until the final table read in January.

Sarah Snook attends the premiere of the fourth season of "Succession" on March 20 in New York. **CHARLES SYKES/INVISION**

"I was very upset," she said. "I felt a huge sense of loss, disappointment and sadness. It would have been nice to know at the beginning of the season, but I also understand not being told until the end because there was still a potential that maybe this wasn't going to be the end.

"Emotionally, all of us weren't necessarily ready to be done with the show because we love each other so much," she added. "But everything has to come to an end, and it's smart not to let something become a parody of itself."

Created by British writer Jesse Armstrong, the Emmy-winning saga follows Logan Roy (Brian Cox), a cantankerous self-made billionaire, and the grown children desperate to win his approval and take over Waystar Royco, the family's vast news and entertainment conglomerate. "Succession" offers viewers a glimpse of life inside a powerful media dynasty — of the Mediterranean superyachts and tricked-out private jets, but also of the corrosive family dysfunction that can accompany extravagant wealth.

The vicious sibling rivalry and thorny parent-child relationships are what make "Succession" relatable. Like her older brothers Kendall (Jeremy Strong), Roman (Kieran Culkin) and Connor (Alan Ruck), Shiv has profound daddy issues, ones that are magnified by her status as the only woman in the family. (Her mother, played by Harriet Walter, is a spectral presence in her life.)

Snook grew up outside Adelaide, South Australia — the city where Rupert Murdoch, the loose inspiration for Logan Roy, launched his newspaper empire. After finishing her studies at National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney, Snook had steady work in Australian theater, film and television.

Hollywood quickly took notice. In 2014, she starred with Ethan Hawke in the heady sci-fi yarn "Predestination," delivering an audacious performance as an intersex character who lives first as a woman, then a man. Working with Hawke made Snook think she had perhaps peaked too soon. She hadn't. In quick succession, she went from "The Dressmaker," a period piece set in rural Australia, to "Steve Jobs."

Then came "Succession."

Casting director Francine Maisler had brought Snook to the attention of Adam McKay, who directed the pilot, and Armstong, who was struck by the blend of intelligence, toughness and humanity she brought to her audition.

"Suddenly, you go from thinking, 'Oh my God, will there be anyone?' to 'Oh my God, I hope she hasn't gotten any offers,'" Armstrong recalled. "She was the only person in the world who could do all these things at once."

Over the course of the series, Shiv has, if not exactly grown, then evolved. In the first season, she was forging a path outside the family's conservative media empire as an adviser to a Bernie Sanders-esque senator. Eventually lured back to Waystar, Shiv refashions herself as a callow corporate feminist who helps guide the company through a sexual abuse scandal, only to be passed over for the chief executive job and dismissed by her brother as a "token woman."

For all of Shiv's swagger, her journey offers a stark example of the misogyny that even privileged women face. (She's also had a much-discussed style makeover, cropping her bohemian waves into a sleek, strawberry blond bob and adopting a wardrobe of Hepburn-esque trousers.)

Snook's abilities as a performer enabled such a dramatic character arc, Armstrong said. "The abiding feeling you have as a writer is the incredible confidence that you can go anywhere, any level of emotional complexity, and not only will Sarah match it, but she will add on three of her own layers as well," he said.

With "Succession" now behind her, Snook, 35, is looking ahead, with two intriguing projects slated for release this year: "Run Rabbit Run," a horror movie for Netflix, and "The Beanie Bubble," which is inspired by the bizarre story behind the Beanie Baby craze of the '90s, for Apple TV+. She also directed a short film during the pandemic and is keen to get behind the camera again soon.

She's also enjoying time with her husband, comedian Dave Lawson. After years of platonic friendship, the couple fell in love during Australia's strict COVID-19 shutdown and wed in Snook's backyard in New York City's Brooklyn in 2021. "The world-is-ending, apocalypse kind of chaos forces you to be vulnerable," she said of their surprise romance. Snook recently revealed she's pregnant with her first child at the fourth season premiere of "Succession" in New York.

Snook's domestic happiness is yet another way she differs from her character, but she sees parallels in their experiences. On Instagram, the actor recently came across a clip of Shiv from Season 1 and was struck by "the growth of a woman coming out of her 20s, into her 30s and into adulthood."

"There was a girlishness to Shiv back then, but she has transformed into a woman," she said, "and that reflects my own journey as part of the series."

What to watch WEDNESDAY

March 29, 2023

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Star Wars: The Bad Batch

Disney+ ■ Season Finale

Season 2's final two episodes — "The Summit" and "Plan 99" — drop today.

Wellmania

Netflix ■ New Series

In this Australian comedy/drama, after food writer Liv (Celeste Barber) has a major health crisis, she is forced to rethink her "live fast, die young" attitude. When she scores a once-in-a-lifetime job that will catapult her into the American mainstream, a series of unfortunate events in Australia sees her banned from re-entering the States unless she fixes her health. Throwing herself body-first into a wellness journey, Liv tries everything from the benign to the bizarre in an attempt to get well quick and reclaim her old life.

General Hospital

ABC, daytime

This special episode honors the late Sonya Eddy, who played Nurse Epiphany Johnson beginning in 2006, with her final in-person appearance on Oct. 20, 2022. Eddy passed away Dec. 19, 2022, at age 55. The episode kicks off General Hospital's 60th anniversary programming (the series premiered April 1, 1963), which will continue into next week with the return of the beloved Nurses Ball after three years.

'Wellmania'

LISA TOMASETTI, NETFLIX

NBA Basketball

ESPN, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Live

The Dallas Mavericks duel with the 76ers in Philadelphia, and the Minnesota Timberwolves battle the Suns in Phoenix.

NHL Hockey

TNT, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Live

An NHL doubleheader on TNT has the N.Y. Islanders at the Washington Capitals and the Minnesota Wild at the Colorado Avalanche.

The Masked Singer

FOX, 7 p.m.

The Masked Singer goes retro with a trip back to the 1980s! A new group of singers belt out hit favorites from the decade, but only one will move forward in the competition in the new episode "'80s Night."

Riverdale

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The seventh and final season of this beloved supernatural adaptation of the Archie comics will bring the entire Riverdale crew back into the 1950s after a comet nearly destroys the town. Only Jughead (Cole Sprouse) will remember what happened in the previous six seasons, working to return his friends back to the present, along with their memories.

Pawn Stars

History, 8 p.m.

Cha-ching! Las Vegas shop guys Rick, Corey and Chum wheel and deal the hour away to acquire collectible M*A*S*H action figures and Tyrannosaurus rex teeth in the episode "Rarer Than Hen's Teeth."

Chicago Fire

NBC, 8 p.m.

In "The First Symptom," Mouch (Christian Stolte) builds a classic firetruck model for the deputy district chief but quickly needs some assistance from Gallo (Alberto Rosende) and Ritter (Daniel Kyri); Brett (Kara Killmer) and Violet (Hanako Greensmith) encounter multiple victims with a strange set of symptoms; and the results of Cindy's (Robyn Coffin) chemotherapy loom over the Herrmann family.

A Million Little Things

ABC, 9 p.m.

In "Dear Diary," Secrets are revealed when Katherine (Grace Park) meets Greta's (Cameron Esposito) parents, and Maggie (Allison Miller) returns to unexpected changes at her workplace.

True Lies

CBS, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Unrelated Parents," the Omega Sector team must track down a dangerous hacker with missile codes that could cause war to break out in the Middle East if they fall into the wrong hands.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

'Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2'

SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

Her Boyfriend's Secret (2018, Suspense) Kelly Sullivan, Mark Famiglietti **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Pumpkin Everything (2022, Romance) Taylor Cole, Corey Sevier **Hallmark, 5 p.m.**

Clueless (1995, Comedy) Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash **VH1, 5:30 p.m.**

Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow **FX, 5 p.m.**

The Birthday Wish (2017, Romance-comedy) Jessy Schram, Luke Macfarlane **Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, 6 p.m.**

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (2013, Children) Bill Hader, Anna Faris **Nick, 6:30 p.m.**

Nobody Will Believe You (2021, Suspense) Jenna Rosenow, Emily Topper **LMN, 7 p.m.**

One Perfect Wedding (2021, Romance) Taylor Cole, Jack Turner **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

The Fugitive (1993, Action) Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Unleashing Mr. Darcy (2016, Romance) Cindy Busby, Ryan Paevey **Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, 8 p.m.**

Your Boyfriend Is Mine (2022, Suspense) Jamie Roy, Eli Jane **LMN, 9 p.m.**

The Perfect Storm (2000, Suspense) George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg **AMC, 10 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar: 'Documentaries'

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Five top-notch documentaries that have all won Academy Awards air this evening during Turner Classic Movies' 31 Days of Oscar. Leading off the lineup, and making its TCM premiere, is director Errol Morris' **The Fog of War (pictured)** (2003), about the life and times of former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, which won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. After that is another Documentary Feature winner: **Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt** (1989). Featuring narration by Dustin Hoffman and a musical score by Bobby McFerrin, the film tells the story behind the AIDS Quilt. Following that is the director's cut (running a bit under four hours) of Michael Wadleigh's **Woodstock** (1970). The film about the legendary 1969 music concert won Best Documentary Feature and also received nominations for Best Sound (Dan Wallin and L.A. Johnson) and Editing (Thelma Schoonmaker). Concluding the lineup in the early morning are producer/director Barbara Kopple's Best Documentary Feature winner **Harlan County, U.S.A.** (1976) and **The Battle of Midway** (1942), director John Ford's Best Documentary-winning short film that captured footage of the pivotal World War II Pacific battle of the title as it happened.

SONY

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TCM	★★★ Grey Gardens ('75, Documentary) Former socialites become recluses in decrepit mansion.	★★★ La Promesse ('96, Drama) (Jérém teenager befriends a widowed illegal i
TLC	My Knees N · Skin/Peeling N	My Baby Weighs N · Body/Shak
TNT	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. N	In NBA N · ★★★ Shar
TRAVEL	Delicious · Delicious · Bizarre Foods/Zimmern	Best Bars · Best Bars · Delicious
TRU	Carbonaro · Carbonaro · Carbonaro · Carbonaro	Imp. Jokers · Imp. Jokers · Imp. Joker

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TV REVIEW

'Great Expectations' miniseries dismal remodel of Dickens tale

By Robert Lloyd
Los Angeles Times

Olivia Colman as Miss Havisham and Tom Sweet as young Pip in FX's "Great Expectations." **FX NETWORKS**

FX, in partnership with the BBC, has made a dreary, dismal and not very Dickensian miniseries out of Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations." And while that seems to be in some measure the point, it is, all the same, dreary and dismal and does not count so much as an adaptation as a remodeling.

Steven Knight has taken the novel down to the studs and erected something quite different in its place. The outlines are vaguely recognizable, but the rooms are all different.

This version, which recently premiered on FX on Hulu, begins with its main character, Pip (Fionn Whitehead), about to hang himself — nothing you'll find in the book — announcing in no uncertain terms that this is not your great-great-great-great-grandfather's "Great Expectations," or really anybody's, because it is not really "Great Expectations."

Affairs start more or less as they do on the page. Pip, who lives with his semi-abusive, older sister Sara (Hayley Squires) and her blacksmith husband Joe (Owen McDonnell) in a village on the coastal marshes of Kent, encounters Magwitch (Johnny Harris), an escaped convict, and is frightened into fetching him food and a file. After a tussle with his nemesis and fellow convict Compeyson (Trystan Gravelle), Magwitch is recaptured and transported to Australia.

Through the offices of Mr. Pumlechook (Matt Berry), Pip is enlisted to become the playmate of Estella (Shalom Brune-Franklin), the adopted daughter of local crazy rich lady Miss Havisham (Olivia Colman). Miss Havisham has not left her house, or stepped out of her wedding dress, since she was abandoned at the altar many years before, and she is raising Estella to become a heartless destroyer of men. Estella toys with Pip and treats him rudely, which only makes him love her all the more and regret his low status. Miss Havisham's lawyer, Jaggers (Ashley Thomas), arrives to say that Pip has become the beneficiary of an anonymous windfall, and off he goes to London to become "a gentleman."

After that, it's anybody's guess. Characters are remade beyond recognition. Odds and ends from the book — references to Cairo, the business of marine insurance — get new weight and a different context. Knight has taken the novel's Gothic elements and smeared them over whatever was light or comical or ironical in the original. In their stead, we get guns and knives, drugs and perversions, public urination and — authentically enough — horse poop.

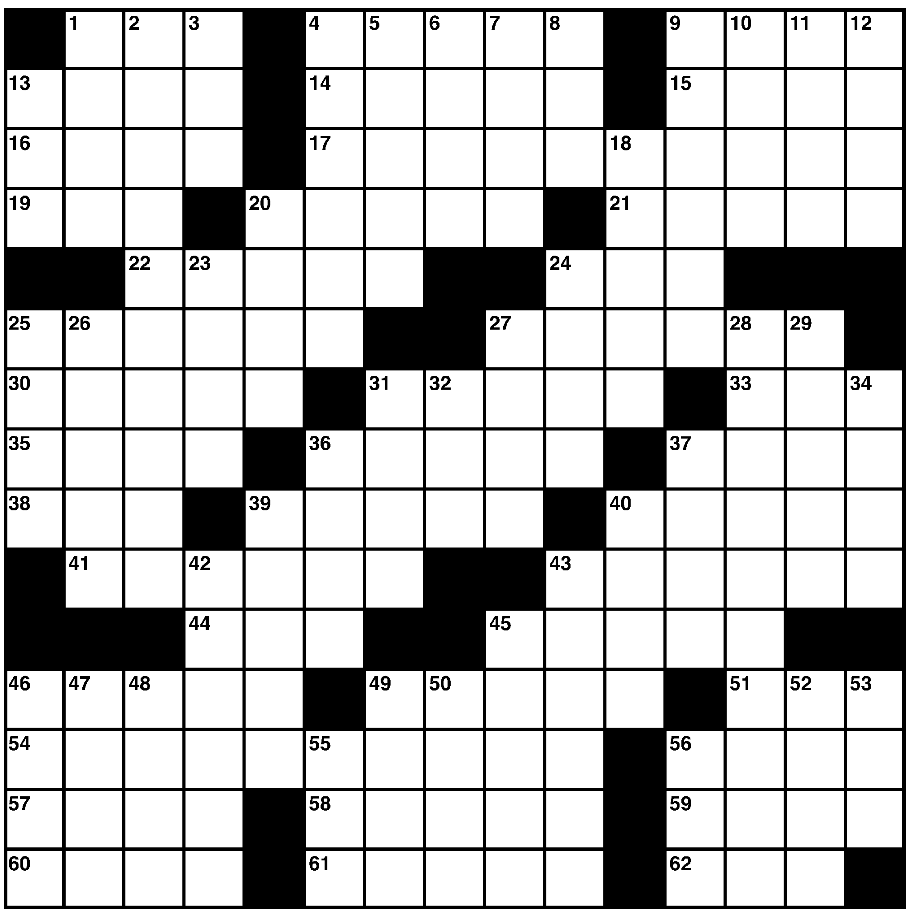
Knight has chosen to embroil Pip in crime and corruption under the influence of Jaggers, a minor character in the book who becomes a major one here. There are nods to systemic exploitation and some random expressions of feminism and activism.

No one doubts that Colman is a great actor; I expect to see her nominated for some or another award for her Miss Havisham. I love Berry, who was born to play characters from Dickens. Thomas has great vocal authority. Still, I wouldn't pass final judgment on any actor by their work here. Most are unable to rise above the stylistic miasma of the production — Whitehead sounds narcotized even when Pip isn't on drugs — or the entirely new words they've been asked to say.

If we decouple the series from its source, what then? Many viewers won't have read the book or seen any earlier adaptations. On its own merits, it's still a gloomy, violent slog. The series becomes sillier as it becomes more serious, wending its way to a bizarrely cheerful conclusion that shares only a fire with its literary antecedent. None of the character development feels earned. The narrative threads are clumsily engineered; their tying up feels pat.

How to watch: Hulu

Crossword



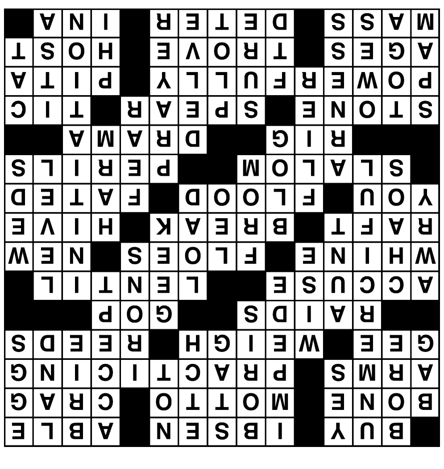
By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

3/29/23

ACROSS
1 Purchase
4 "A Doll's House" playwright
9 Ready, willing and __
13 Talus or tibia
14 Slogan
15 Rugged cliff
16 Hugger's needs
17 Rehearsing
19 Word of mild surprise
20 Put on a scale
21 Marsh grasses
22 Sudden attacks
24 Pres. Taft's party
25 Point the finger at
27 Soup bean
30 Fuss childishly
31 Sheets of ice
33 Just purchased
35 Flat floater
36 Time-out
37 Bee's home
38 "Till There Was __"; Beatles song
39 Natural disaster
40 Ill-__; doomed
41 Zigzag skiing
43 Dangers
44 Big __; semi
45 __ queen; emotional one
46 Slingshot projectile
49 Piece of asparagus
51 Little twitch
54 With force
56 Stuffed bread
57 Historical times
58 Treasure stash
59 Party-giver
60 Horde of people
61 Dissuade; intimidate
62 __ funk; moody

DOWN
1 Monotonous speaker
2 Cruel
3 TV's "__, Dear"
4 Hinder
5 Yeltsin or Becker
6 Male deer
7 Engrave
8 "To be or __ to be…"
9 Agree to take
10 Soft cheese
11 Terra firma
12 Quiche ingredients
13 Sack
18 Some golf clubs
20 Sensible
23 Rosemary, to George Clooney
24 Social misfit
25 Amiss
26 Pandemonium
27 Heavy burden
28 New club member's ordeal
29 Balanced; even
31 Word on a gift tag
32 Zodiac sign
34 Ties the knot
36 Personal online journal
37 Do damage to
39 Pilot
40 Phobia
42 James of "Gunsmoke"
43 Rabbi's recommendation
45 Dig
46 Canned meat
47 Old Roman garment
48 Has bills
49 "Of course!"
50 Scheme
52 "__ Wonderful Life"
53 Kitty
55 Floral delivery svc.
56 __ Beta Kappa

Solutions



Horoscopes

Today's birthday (March 29): Go for your heart's desire this year. Guard regular space in your busy schedule for daydreaming, meditation and planning. Springtime epiphanies and accomplishments blossom. Reorienting for alternate summer income inspires collaborative autumn breakthroughs.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Complications could require adaptation. Make repairs or upgrades. Love and family compensate for domestic shortcomings. Minimize risk or controversy. Include homemade comfort foods.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 7. Changes could impact communications. Make technical improvements. Delays could frustrate creative projects. Take time to process and digest the story.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Take advantage of a lucrative opportunity. Things may not go as planned. Clarify misunderstandings right away or it could get expensive.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. An enticing opportunity calls to your personal core values. Don't rely on luck. Patiently navigate miscommunications, mistakes or delays. Plan carefully.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 6. Take it easy. Take quiet time to process recent events. Consider the big picture, and your part in it. Enjoy your cozy cocoon.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 7. Share team support around a breakdown or change. You can see what doesn't work. Adjust and make corrections. A common passion brings you together.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. A professional challenge requires adaptation. Provide excellent service and a flexible attitude. Reinforce foundational elements. Clarify misunderstandings. Patiently untangle threads. Unexpected benefits flower.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 7. Dive into a fascinating subject. Expect travel delays. Delays, challenges or miscommunications could frustrate. Monitor conditions and adapt. Studies reveal unconsidered potential. Patiently investigate.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Love is your common binding thread. Patiently pull together in the face of misunderstandings or financial delays. Slow and steady does it.

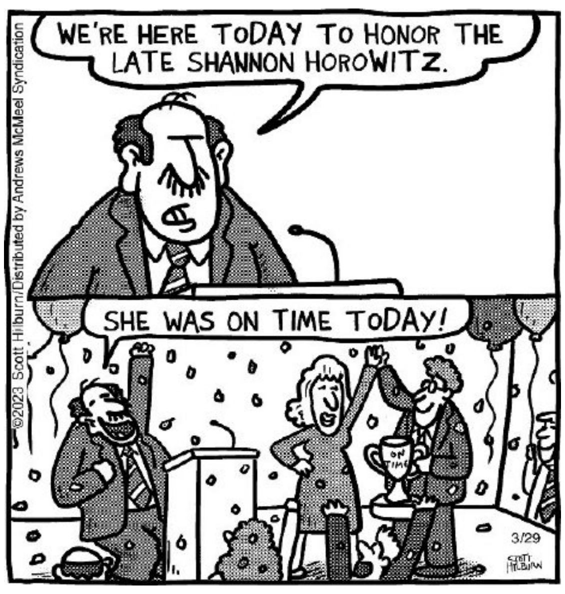
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Work with a partner around unforeseen circumstances. Avoid automatic reactions. Consider shared commitments and consequences before speaking. Discover valuable solutions. Romance could spark, too.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Patiently navigate an obstacle to avoid accidents. Prioritize health and wellness despite challenges. Eat and rest well. Postpone sugar.

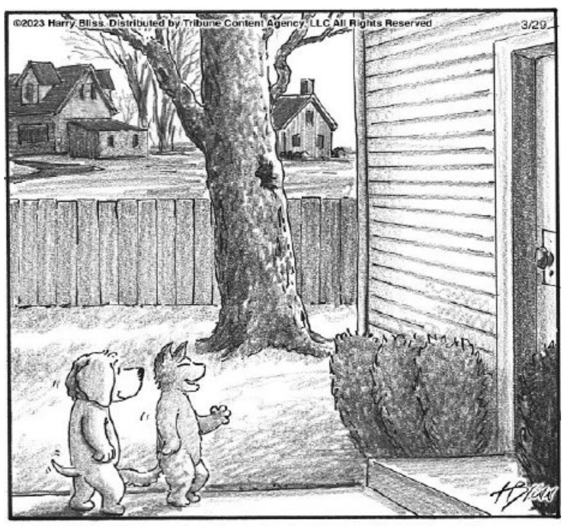
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 7. Fun and romance could spark spontaneously. Beware of miscommunications or mixed signals. Clarify your views patiently. Listen for love and find it.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn


WE'RE HERE TODAY TO HONOR THE LATE SHANNON HOROWITZ.
SHE WAS ON TIME TODAY!
ON TIME
3/29
SCOTT HILBURN
©2023 Scott Hilburn/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Bliss By Harry Bliss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3/29

"You're not going to believe it. I literally shredded their sofa."

Bridge

Neither vulnerable, North deals

North
♠ K Q 9 4
♥ A K Q 10
♦ J 10 9 4 2
♣ Void

West
♠ J 8 5
♥ J 9 2
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ J 9 2

East
♠ 10 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K 7
♣ 8 7 6 5 4 3

South
♠ A 7 6 3
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 6 5
♣ A K Q 10

North's void in clubs, partner's suit, should have warned him not to keep pursuing a possible slam. He probably should have passed four spades but he couldn't resist one more try and the bidding stopped at five spades. This seemed to be no problem. The jack of hearts and the jack of clubs were both falling, so this looked like a lead problem for the defense. West had to find a diamond lead or declarer would have 12 easy tricks.

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All pass

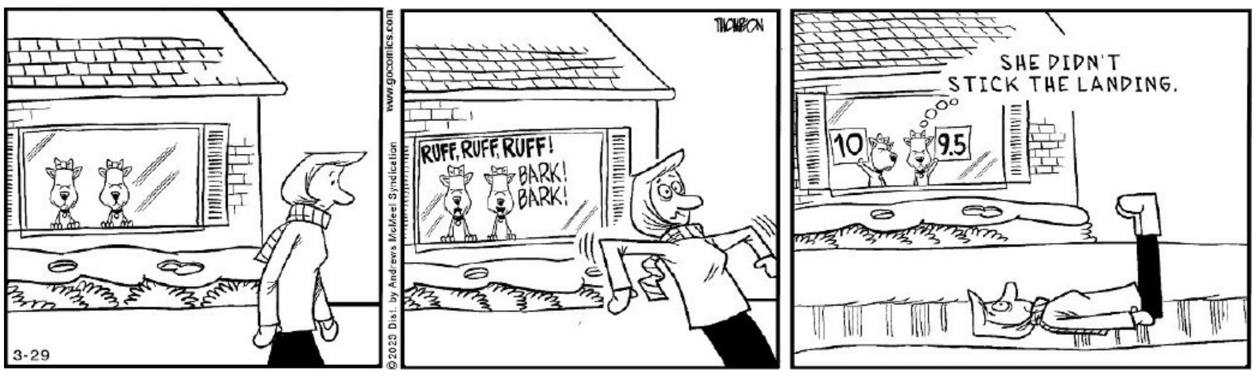
Opening lead: ?

West was Norwegian expert Terje Lie, who took the opening lead problem a step further. He listened to the auction and it sounded like the opponents stopped bidding because they didn't have a diamond control. That meant that his partner probably had the king of diamonds. They might even have three top diamond tricks to cash, but there was a danger that partner only had two diamonds. Leading the ace of diamonds might strand a possible third diamond trick. Lie backed his judgment with his play and led a low diamond.

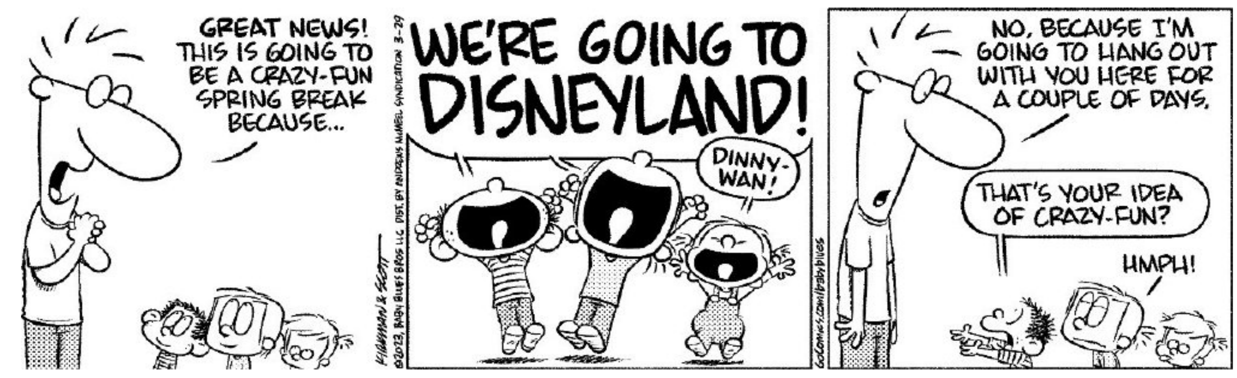
East won with his king and returned the suit to Lie's queen. There was no third diamond trick for the defense but Lie led a third diamond anyway. East ruffed with the 10 and South over-ruffed with the ace, but South now had a nasty guess in the trump suit. South cashed the king and queen of spades, a reasonable play, but now went down one. Beautiful lead!

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

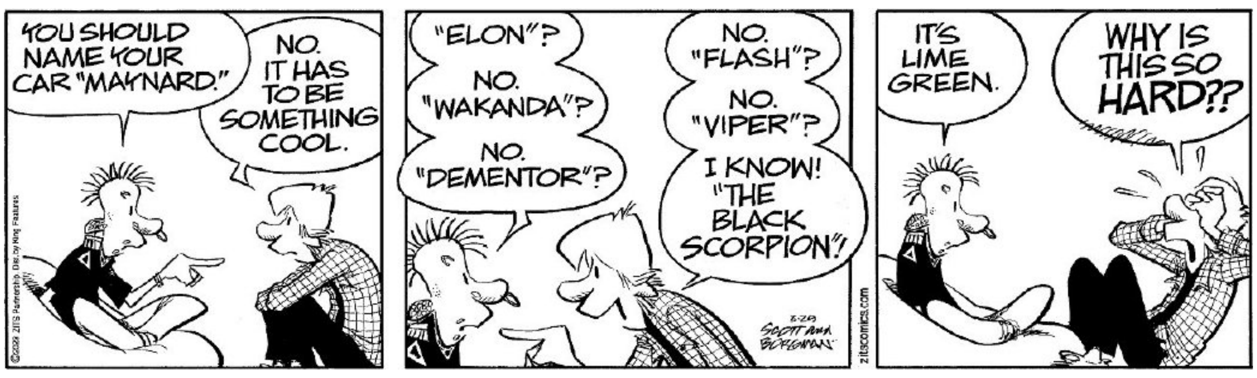
Grand Avenue By Mike Thompson


3-29
©2023 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication www.gocomics.com
THOMPSON
RUFF, RUFF, RUFF!
BARK! BARK!
SHE DIDN'T STICK THE LANDING.
10
9.5

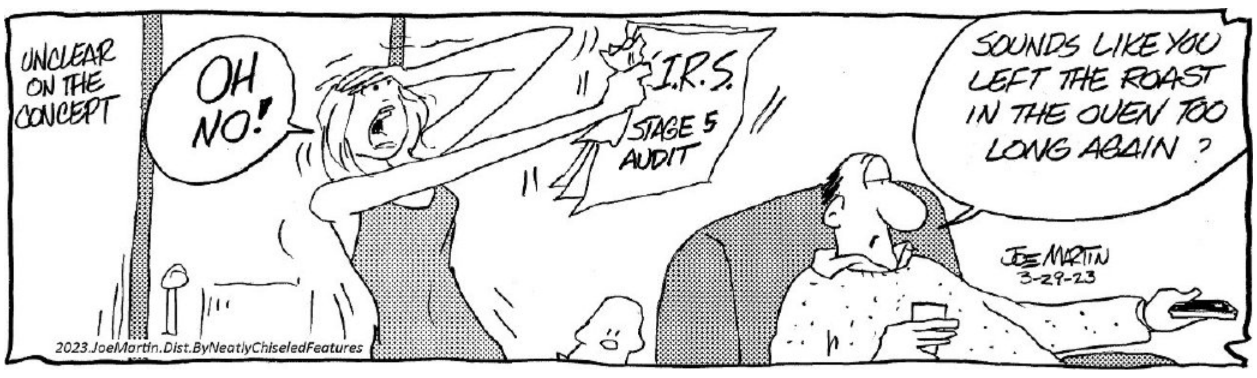
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


GREAT NEWS! THIS IS GOING TO BE A CRAZY-FUN SPRING BREAK BECAUSE...
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
©2023, BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION 3-29
WE'RE GOING TO DISNEYLAND!
DINNY-WAN!
GoComics.com/babyblues
NO, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO HANG OUT WITH YOU HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF CRAZY-FUN?
HMPH!

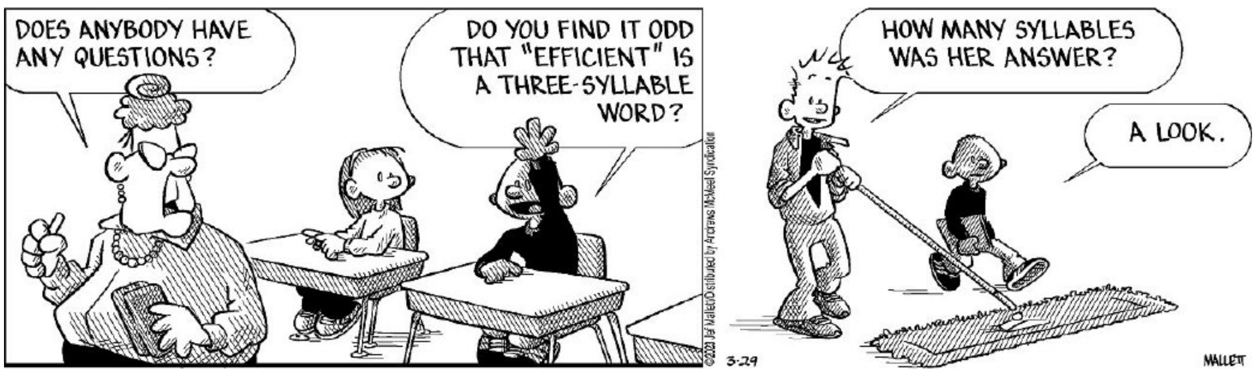
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


YOU SHOULD NAME YOUR CAR "MAYNARD."
NO. IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING COOL.
©2023 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features
"ELON"?
NO. "WAKANDA"?
NO. "DEMENTOR"?
NO. "FLASH"?
NO. "VIPER"?
I KNOW! "THE BLACK SCORPION"!
3-29
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
zitscomics.com
IT'S LIME GREEN.
WHY IS THIS SO HARD??

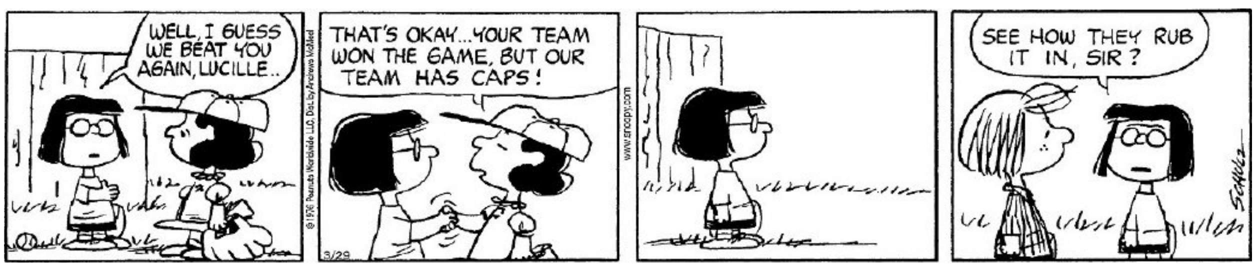
Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin


UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT
OH NO!
I.R.S.
STAGE 5 AUDIT
SOUNDS LIKE YOU LEFT THE ROAST IN THE OVEN TOO LONG AGAIN ?
JOE MARTIN 3-29-23
2023.JoeMartin.Dist.ByNeatlyChiseledFeatures

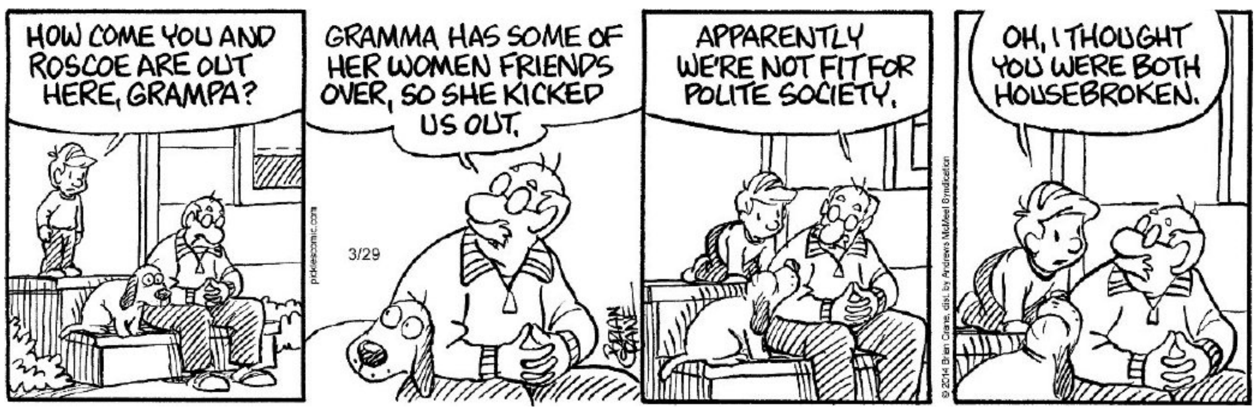
Frazz By Jef Mallett


DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
DO YOU FIND IT ODD THAT "EFFICIENT" IS A THREE-SYLLABLE WORD?
©2023 Jef Mallett/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
HOW MANY SYLLABLES WAS HER ANSWER?
A LOOK.
3-29
MALLETT

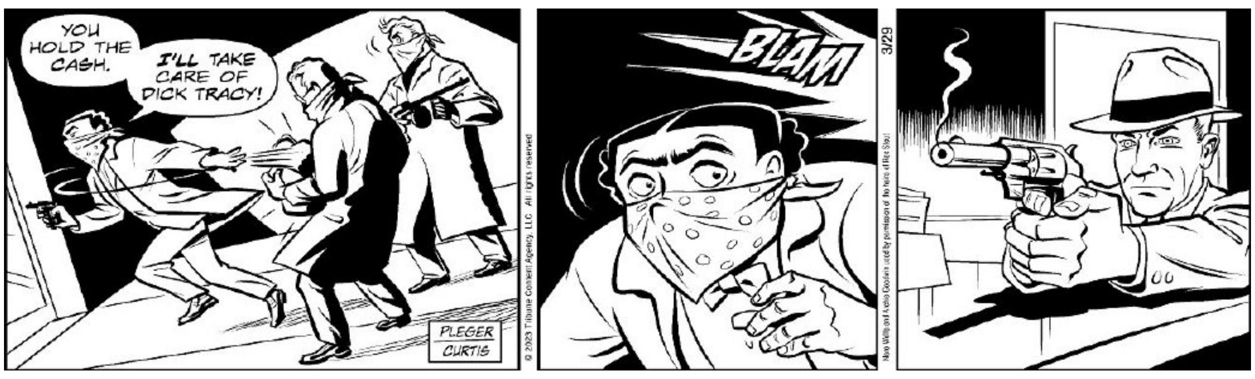
Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz


WELL, I GUESS WE BEAT YOU AGAIN, LUCILLE..
©1976 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel
THAT'S OKAY...YOUR TEAM WON THE GAME, BUT OUR TEAM HAS CAPS!
3/29
www.snoopy.com
SEE HOW THEY RUB IT IN, SIR?
SCHULZ

Pickles By Brian Crane


HOW COME YOU AND ROSCOE ARE OUT HERE, GRAMPA?
picklescomic.com
3/29
GRAMMA HAS SOME OF HER WOMEN FRIENDS OVER, SO SHE KICKED US OUT.
BRIAN CRANE
APPARENTLY WE'RE NOT FIT FOR POLITE SOCIETY.
© 2014 Brian Crane. dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE BOTH HOUSEBROKEN.

Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis


YOU HOLD THE CASH.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF DICK TRACY!
PLEGER CURTIS
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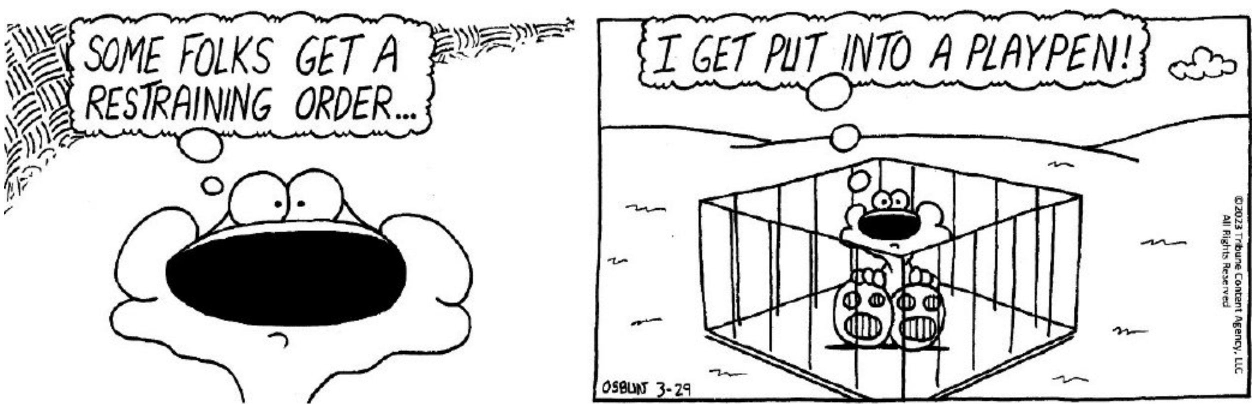
BLAM
3/29

Animal Crackers By Mike Osbun


SOME FOLKS GET A RESTRAINING ORDER...
I GET PUT INTO A PLAYPEN!
OSBUN 3-29
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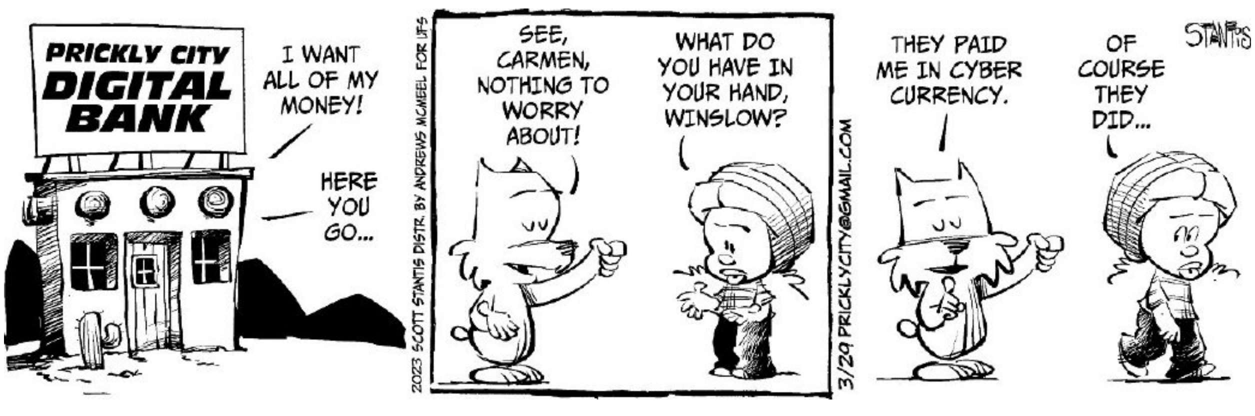
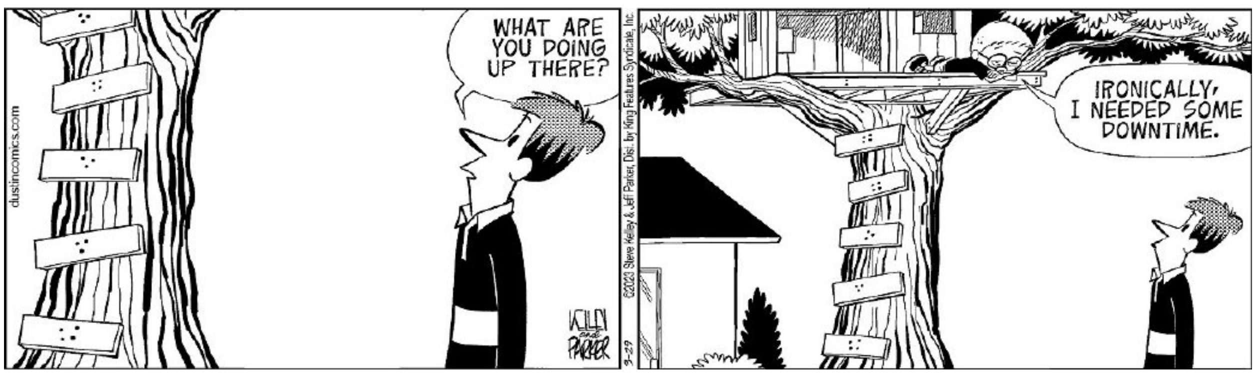
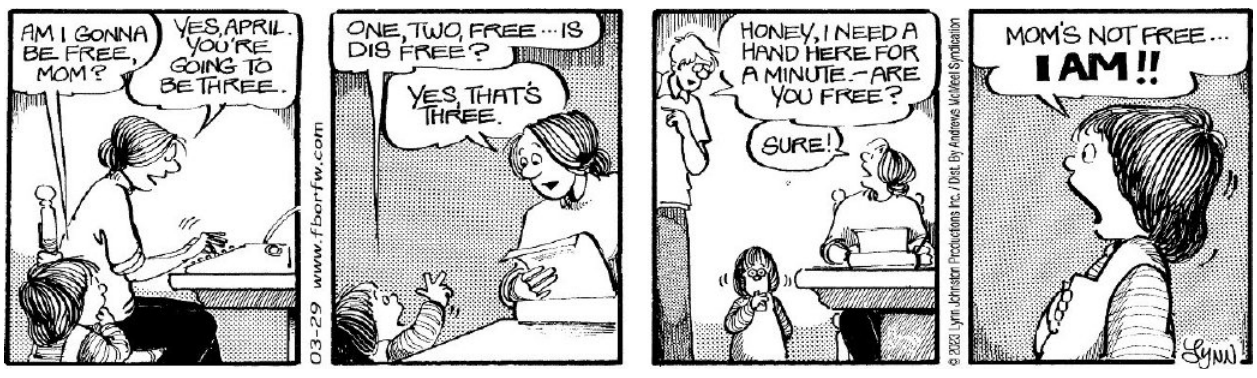
Prickly City By Scott Stantis


PRICKLY CITY DIGITAL BANK
I WANT ALL OF MY MONEY!
HERE YOU GO...
2023 SCOTT STANTIS DISTR. BY ANDREWS McMEEL FOR UFS
SEE, CARMEN, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND, WINSLOW?
3/29 PRICKLYCITY@GMAIL.COM
THEY PAID ME IN CYBER CURRENCY.
OF COURSE THEY DID...
STANTIS

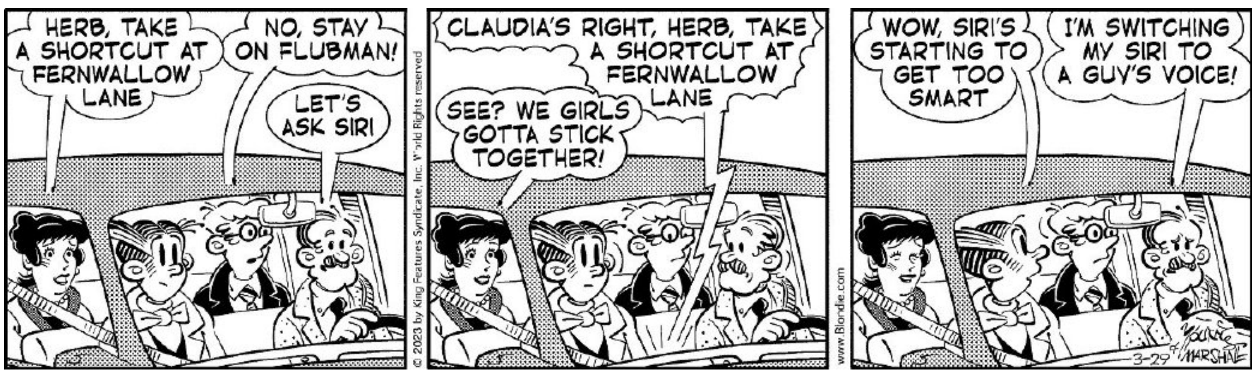
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker


WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
IRONICALLY, I NEEDED SOME DOWNTIME.
dustincomics.com
©2023 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
KELLEY and PARKER
3-29

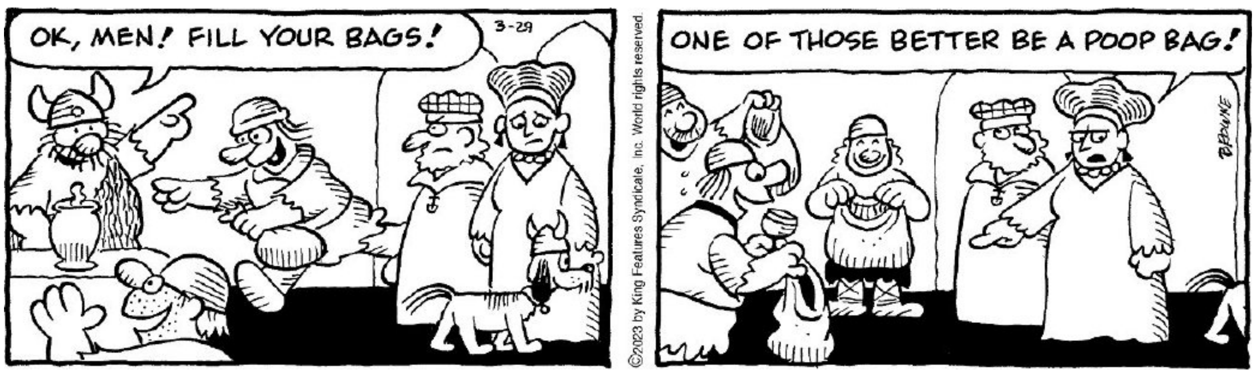
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston


AM I GONNA BE FREE, MOM?
YES, APRIL. YOU'RE GOING TO BE THREE.
03-29 www.fborfw.com
ONE, TWO, FREE ... IS DIS FREE?
YES, THAT'S THREE.
HONEY, I NEED A HAND HERE FOR A MINUTE. - ARE YOU FREE?
SURE!
© 2023 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. / Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication
MOM'S NOT FREE... I AM!!
Lynn

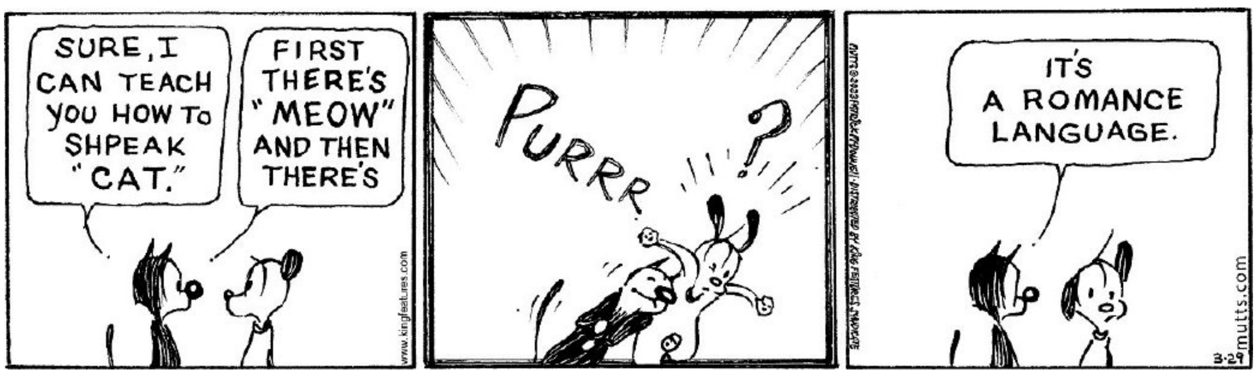
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


HERB, TAKE A SHORTCUT AT FERNWALLOW LANE
NO, STAY ON FLUBMAN!
LET'S ASK SIRI
© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
CLAUDIA'S RIGHT, HERB, TAKE A SHORTCUT AT FERNWALLOW LANE
SEE? WE GIRLS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER!
www.Blondie.com
WOW, SIRI'S STARTING TO GET TOO SMART
I'M SWITCHING MY SIRI TO A GUY'S VOICE!
3-29 YOUNG & MARSHALL

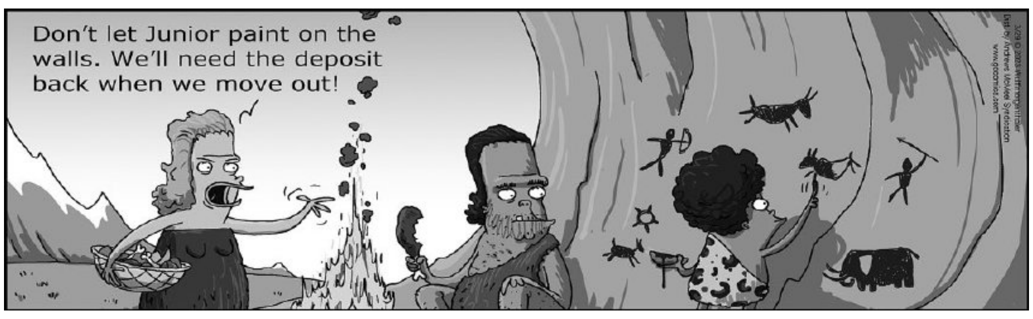
Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne


OK, MEN! FILL YOUR BAGS!
3-29
©2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
ONE OF THOSE BETTER BE A POOP BAG!
BROWNE

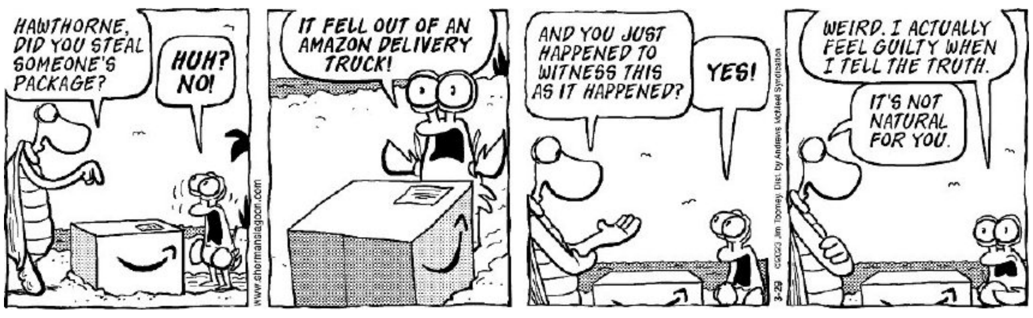
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell


SURE, I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO SHPEAK "CAT."
FIRST THERE'S "MEOW" AND THEN THERE'S
www.kingfeatures.com
PURRR
?
IT'S A ROMANCE LANGUAGE.
mutts.com
3-29

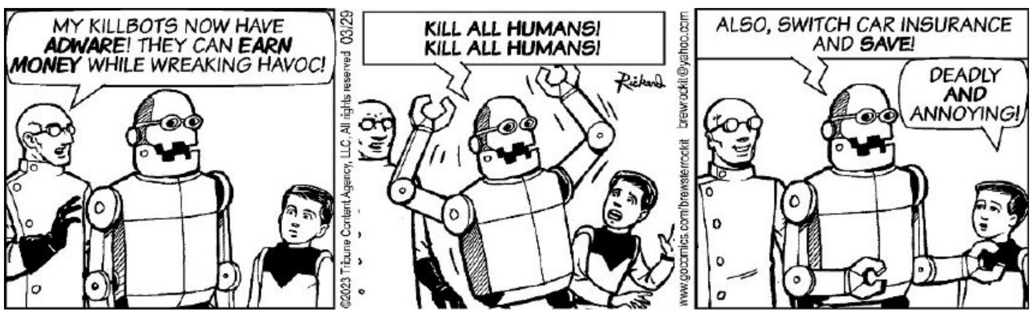
WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler


Don't let Junior paint on the walls. We'll need the deposit back when we move out!

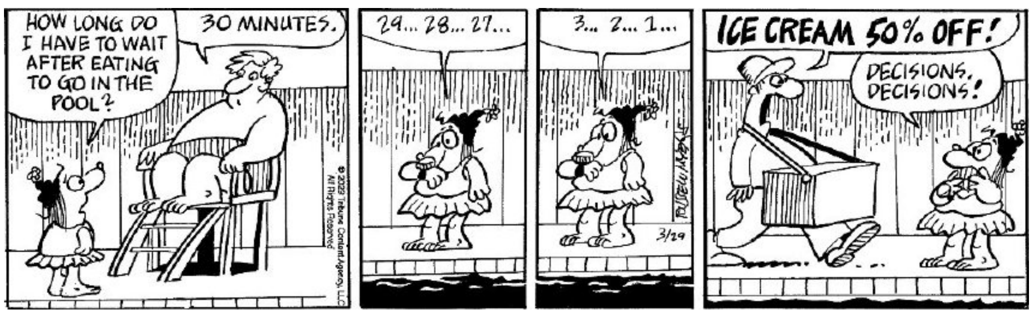
Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey


HAWTHORNE, DID YOU STEAL SOMEONE'S PACKAGE?
HUH? NO!
www.shermanslagoon.com
IT FELL OUT OF AN AMAZON DELIVERY TRUCK!
AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO WITNESS THIS AS IT HAPPENED?
YES!
©2023 Jim Toomey. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
3-29
WEIRD. I ACTUALLY FEEL GUILTY WHEN I TELL THE TRUTH.
IT'S NOT NATURAL FOR YOU.

Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard


MY KILLBOTS NOW HAVE ADWARE! THEY CAN EARN MONEY WHILE WREAKING HAVOC!
03/29
©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved
KILL ALL HUMANS! KILL ALL HUMANS!
Rickard
www.gocomics.com/brewsterrockit brewrockit@yahoo.com
ALSO, SWITCH CAR INSURANCE AND SAVE!
DEADLY AND ANNOYING!

Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers


HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT AFTER EATING TO GO IN THE POOL?
30 MINUTES.
© 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved
29... 28... 27...
3... 2... 1...
RUSSELL MYERS
3/29
ICE CREAM 50% OFF!
DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Sudoku

1 2 3 4

3/29

	3		8				2	
			6		7			
		4		1	9	3	8	
				6				1
3								4
9				5				
	5	9		2		6		
	8		7		6			
	4				3		7	

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

9	8	5	1	6	2	4	3	7
2	1	7	5	4	3	9	8	6
3	6	4	8	7	9	5	2	1
5	4	3	6	1	7	2	9	8
7	2	1	9	5	8	3	6	4
6	9	8	3	2	4	7	1	5
8	5	9	7	3	1	6	4	2
1	7	2	4	9	6	8	5	3
4	3	6	2	8	5	1	7	9

◀ **Tuesday's solutions**

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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

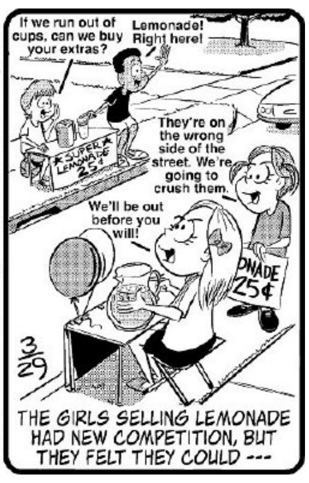
DHIEC

TWYIT

TCLATE

FNTESO

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble


If we run out of cups, can we buy your extras?
Lemonade! Right here!
SUPER LEMONADE 25¢
They're on the wrong side of the street. We're going to crush them.
We'll be out before you will!
ONADE 25¢
3/29
THE GIRLS SELLING LEMONADE HAD NEW COMPETITION, BUT THEY FELT THEY COULD ---

Answer here

Tuesday's answers

Jumbles: SNUCK ISSUE SICKEN NIBBLE

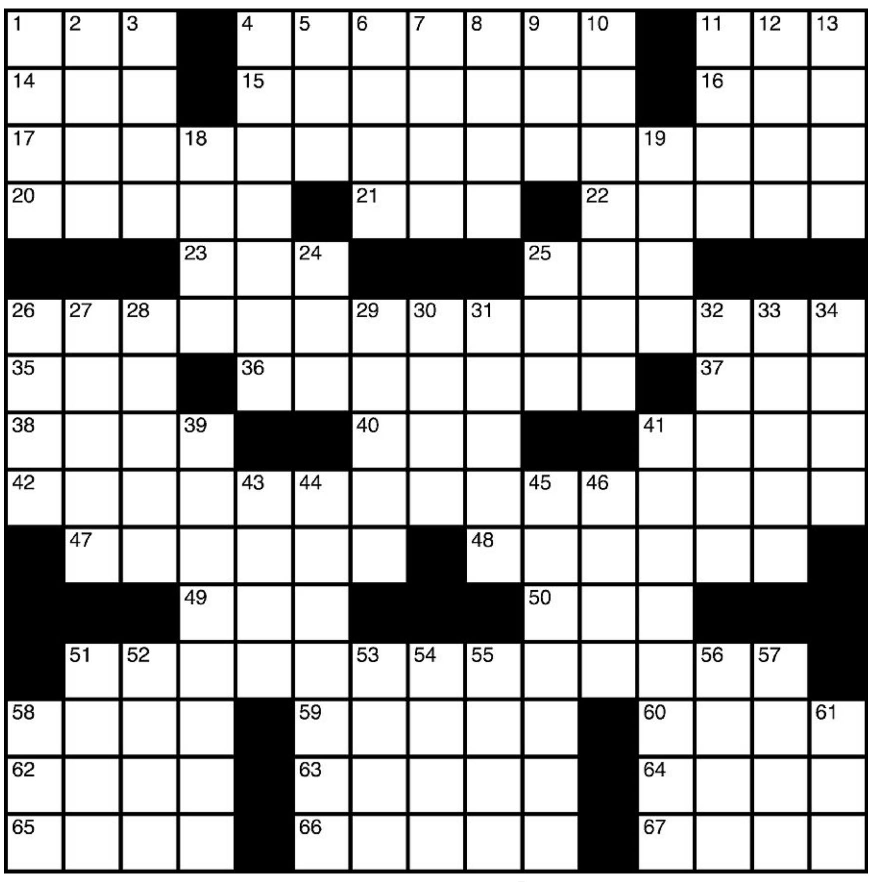
Answer: They were building a small lodging establishment and would soon — BE "INN" BUSINESS

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

---

Crossword

3/29



Across

1 Wet dirt
4 Biblical saying
11 Fave pal
14 Sushi-grade tuna
15 Pen with bright ink
16 Hoppy brew
17 Like an amazing and fortuitous circumstance that can't possibly exist, despite an initial promising appearance [67-Across: Suspiciously awesome]
20 Pulsate
21 Junior
22 Gave a leg up to
23 Actress Vardalos
25 24/7 cash source
26 Metaphor for the legal system that implies a criminal cannot hide or escape from that system's vast resources and unparalleled authority [67-Across: Police jurisdiction]
35 Unlock, poetically
36 Director Kubrick
37 Wall St. debut
38 Plot portion
40 Feel bad about
41 Successor
42 Was as successful and enjoyable as early conjecture and predictions suggested it would be [67-Across: Met expectations]
47 Mogul
48 South Seas wrap
49 WC
50 "i" topper
51 Declaration from a person playing poker in a situation where the opponents think they have it in the bag [67-Across: "I win!"]
58 Game show creator Griffin
59 Pesto herb
60 Broad valley
62 Brink
63 Joint above a foot
64 Bailiwick
65 WCs
66 Stands
67 "I lost interest" acronym spelled out by the starts of four answers in this puzzle

Down

1 Actor Damon
2 "Yikes!"
3 Designer Christian
4 Fears
5 Kia sedan
6 Cutlass sedan, e.g.
7 Corleone patriarch
8 Henry VI's school
9 Hoops stat
10 Whispery in tone
11 Poet
12 Fireplace shaft
13 Farm store bagful
18 Large flat bell
19 Proctor's shout
24 Graffiti, e.g.
25 Dined
26 Laundry batch
27 Footnote kin of ibid.
28 Geeky
29 Cheech of Cheech & Chong
30 Obligation
31 Canine pests
32 Occupy, as a bed
33 Copying
34 Saint-John's-__: herbal remedy
39 Closed-off districts
41 Derided from the stands
43 Pond critter
44 Option for soap or ice cream
45 Ping-Pong and canoeing needs
46 Boat's front
51 Ctrl+Y action
52 "By that logic ... "
53 __-pedi
54 Requests
55 Giza's river
56 __ Grey tea
57 Implored
58 Country singer Tillis
61 Musician's gift

Tuesday's solution

W	I	F	I	■	A	B	I	D	E	D	■	M	A	S
P	A	L	S	■	V	O	T	E	N	O	■	R	N	A
A	N	A	L	O	G	W	A	T	C	H	■	P	I	T
■	■	T	A	B	■	■	L	A	O	■	S	I	M	I
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	■	C	R	O	W	B	A	R
C	A	R	D	S	O	N	T	H	E	T	A	B	L	E
C	H	O	■	E	D	D	Y	■	S	T	Y	■	■	■
P	A	N	T	■	■	S	P	A	■	■	S	O	O	N
■	■	■	U	F	C	■	E	L	M	S	■	P	R	Y
R	O	U	N	D	O	F	A	P	P	L	A	U	S	E
A	D	M	I	R	A	L	■	S	H	A	L	L	O	T
N	A	P	S	■	C	O	W	■	■	S	T	E	■	■
T	M	I	■	S	H	O	W	O	F	H	A	N	D	S
E	A	R	■	A	E	R	I	A	L	■	R	C	A	S
D	E	E	■	O	S	S	I	F	Y	■	S	E	N	T

By Chase Dittrich & Jeff Chen. Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Trivia Bits

Which folk tale begins with the main character attempting to sell the family cow?

A) "Aladdin"
B) "Jack and the Beanstalk"
C) "Peter and the Wolf"
D) "Rumpelstiltskin"

Tuesday's answer: John Steinbeck took the title for "The Grapes of Wrath" from "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

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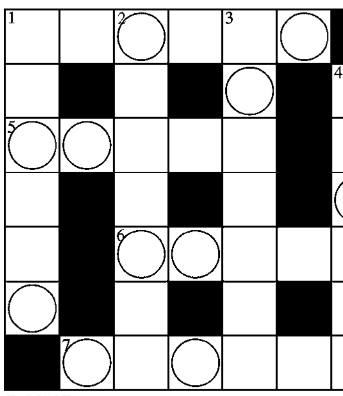
Jumble Crossword



3-29-23

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Mumbai, formerly	MYABBO
5. Visit as a spirit	UTAHN
6. White ____	SOENI
7. Channel	RYRTEA

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Look at	DOHBEL
2. Bereaved person	RMUOREN
3. With a leg on either side	DRIATES
4. Solitary, forlorn	NOYELL

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: This actor and philanthropist's name at birth was Amos Muzyad Yaqoob Kairouz.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Bombay 5A-Haunt 6A-Noise 7A-Artery 1D-Behold 2D-Mourner 3D-Astride 4D-Lonely B-Danny Thomas

By David L. Hoyt.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

Level: 1 **2** 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

	4			6	2		5	
								2
		9	3			7		
	7		8		4			3
1			6		5			7
9			1		7		8	
					3	5		
8								
	3		7	4			6	

7	4	8	9	6	2	3	5	1
3	5	6	4	7	1	8	9	2
2	1	9	3	5	8	7	4	6
6	7	5	8	2	4	9	1	3
1	8	3	6	9	5	4	2	7
9	2	4	1	3	7	6	8	5
4	6	1	2	8	3	5	7	9
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	3	4
5	3	2	7	4	9	1	6	8

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7/4/18

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: NFL players

262

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

P Q P L J H S A M M Y B A U G H Z S
R O D W O O D S O N B M Y G A H E I
M H I P I H T R O W L A E C N A L W
J I M P A R K E R T L N K G T N A E
J O E M O N T A N A E K C A H N Z L
R O L Y A T E C N E R W A L O A N Y
E B B S H G V P R E Y Y M E N H O A
C R L Z U N A G G A I D N S Y N G R
I U O A A G E G W P O A H A M H Y D
R C U E E O I L J N Z R O Y U O N L
Y E N M J E E J H R L B J E Ñ J O N
R S T O W N I U A U O M R R O M T M
R M D H H M T S W Z I O F S Z R P K
E I I O B S H T I M S T T I M M E C
J T J R O T E R R Y B R A D S H A W
E H O N I K S R U G A N O K N O R B
V W S E N Y A H E K I M M G I L W B
N Z G Z D I R O N N I E L O T T E U

ALAN PAGE
ANTHONY MUÑOZ
BRONKO NAGURSKI
BRUCE SMITH
DON HUTSON
EMMITT SMITH
GALE SAYERS
JERRY RICE
JIM BROWN
JIM PARKER
JOE GREENE
JOE MONTANA
JOHN ELWAY
JOHN HANNAH
JOHN MACKEY
LANCE ALWORTH
LAWRENCE TAYLOR
MEL BLOUNT
MIKE HAYNES
RAY LEWIS
REGGIE WHITE
ROD WOODSON
RONNIE LOTT
SAMMY BAUGH
TERRY BRADSHAW
TOM BRADY
TONY GONZALEZ

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BOGGLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	1151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

U B P O
A R I L
T U O E
U O S C

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE ZODIAC SIGNS in the grid of letters.

LEO LIBRA ARIES TAURUS SCORPIO

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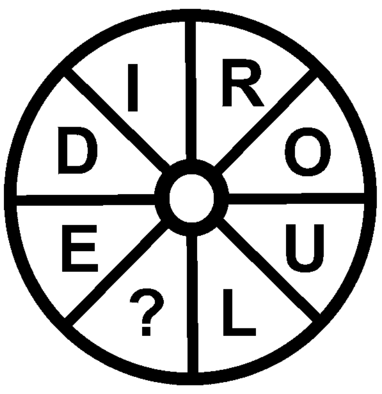
7-24-18

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

FLUORIDE

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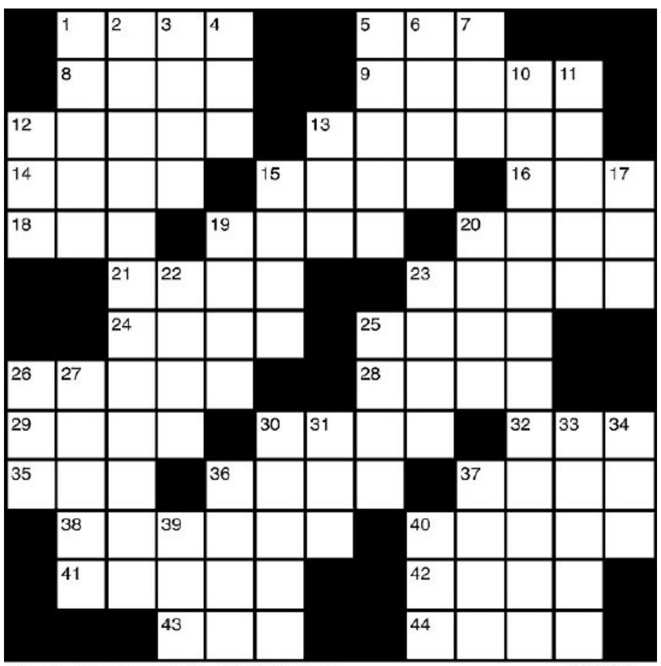
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews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44

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 5/25/14

ACROSS
1 Mayberry's sheriff
5 Maya's "Up All Night" role
8 Early host of "The Tonight Show" Jack __
9 "Gone with the Wind" actor
12 Dillon and Damon
13 Old fogy
14 Dull pain
15 Seymour or Pauley
16 Many Best Buy purchases
18 "__ and Sympathy"; movie for Deborah Kerr
19 Danza of "Who's the Boss?"
20 Late singer Redding
21 Actor Wyle
23 Vital sign in the wrist
24 Dawn, for short
25 "Little Man __"; Jodie Foster movie
26 Lead role in "My Fair Lady"
28 Setting for "Picket Fences": abbr.
29 Prefix for cast or prompter
30 Big smile
32 Jethro Bodine, for one
35 Baseball's __ Ripken, Jr.
36 "Escape __"; movie for Sylvester Stallone
37 News journalist Brit __
38 Dancer and actor Ben
40 "__ Days"
41 Sevareid and Close
42 Window ledge
43 Approves, for short
44 "One __ Hill"

DOWN
1 Quickly
2 Will Arnett's sitcom role
3 "Due __"; movie for Robert Downey, Jr.
4 Calendar periods: abbr.
5 "The __ and the Ecstasy"
6 Bouquet holder
7 Stomach muscles, familiarly
10 "The __"; TLC's series about Bill and Jen
11 Lisa Marie's dad
12 Floor pad
13 "The __"; Robert De Niro baseball film
15 Denver or Astin
17 180˚ from NNW
19 O'Hara's estate in "Gone with the Wind"
20 Pitcher's delights
22 Seep out
23 "No __, no gain"
25 "__ Peaks"; crime drama series
26 And so forth: abbr.
27 "__ It to Beaver"
30 Actress Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"
31 Galloped
33 More than enough
34 "30 Rock" actress
36 Actor Gregory
37 Long-running Broadway musical
39 "__ Grande"; John Wayne movie
40 ...FDR, __, DDE, JFK, LBJ...

■	A	N	D	Y	■	■	A	V	A	■	■	■
■	P	A	A	R	■	■	G	A	B	L	E	■
M	A	T	T	S	■	F	O	S	S	I	L	■
A	C	H	E	■	J	A	N	E	■	T	V	S
T	E	A	■	T	O	N	Y	■	O	T	I	S
■	■	N	O	A	H	■	■	P	U	L	S	E
■	■	M	O	R	N	■	T	A	T	E	■	■
E	L	I	Z	A	■	■	W	I	S	C	■	■
T	E	L	E	■	G	R	I	N	■	O	A	F
C	A	L	■	P	L	A	N	■	H	U	M	E
■	V	E	R	E	E	N	■	H	A	P	P	Y
■	E	R	I	C	S	■	■	S	I	L	L	■
■	■	■	O	K	S	■	■	T	R	E	E	■

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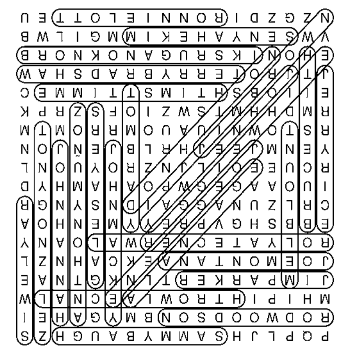

NFL players

S O P H O M O R E

■	S	■	A	■	P	■	■	B	■	P	■	■
W	E	B	B	■	O	P	P	O	N	E	N	T
■	R	■	H	O	N	E	■	O	■	P	O	V
■	V	■	O	■	Y	A	M	S	■	P	I	S
R	E	A	R	M	■	L	A	T	T	E	S	■
■	■	E	■	A	■	■	K	■	O	R	E	S
J	O	I	N	U	P	■	E	F	G	■	■	U
■	K	O	A	L	A	■	S	O	A	R	E	D
D	O	U	R	■	S	U	I	T	■	L	D	S
■	K	■	C	W	T	■	T	O	A	S	T	Y

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNIYH

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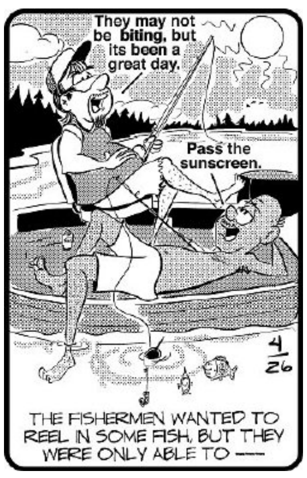
CCOLK

AMTENG

ARQUES

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app


They may not be biting, but its been a great day.
Pass the sunscreen.
4/26
THE FISHERMEN WANTED TO REEL IN SOME FISH, BUT THEY WERE ONLY ABLE TO ---

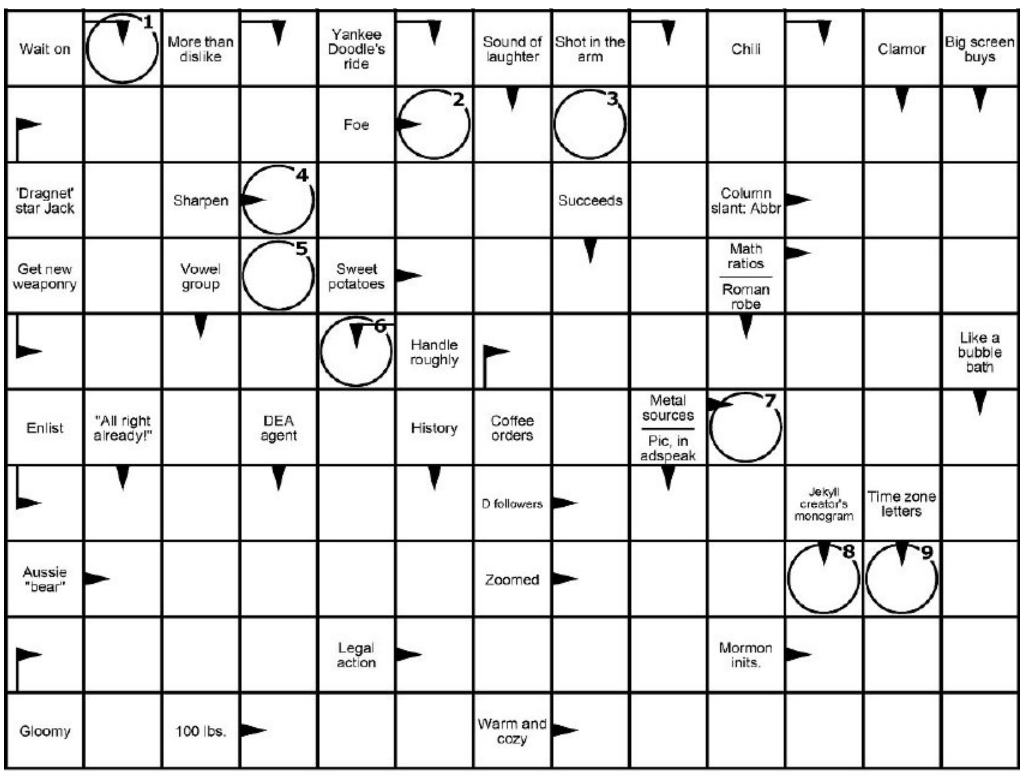
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: SHINY CLOCK MAGNET SQUARE

Answer: The fishermen wanted to reel in some fish, but they were only able to — CATCH SOME RAYS

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.


Wait on
1
More than dislike
Yankee Doodle's ride
Sound of laughter
Shot in the arm
Chili
Clamor
Big screen buys
Foe
2
3
'Dragnet' star Jack
Sharpen
4
Succeeds
Column slant: Abbr
Get new weaponry
Vowel group
5
Sweet potatoes
Math ratios
Roman robe
6
Handle roughly
Like a bubble bath
Enlist
"All right already!"
DEA agent
History
Coffee orders
Metal sources
Pic, in adspeak
7
D followers
Jekyll creator's monogram
Time zone letters
Aussie "bear"
Zoomed
8
9
Legal action
Mormon inits.
Gloomy
100 lbs.
Warm and cozy

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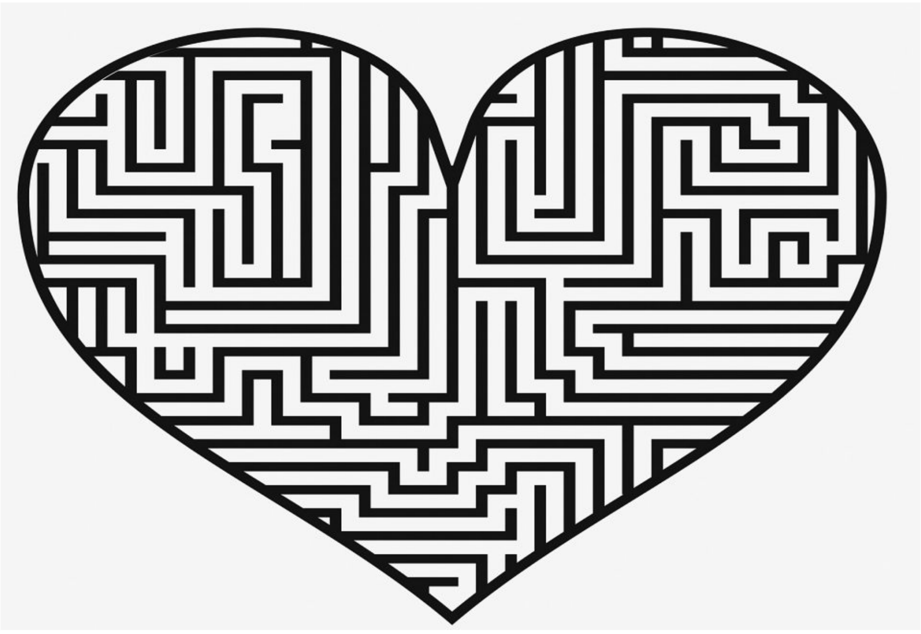
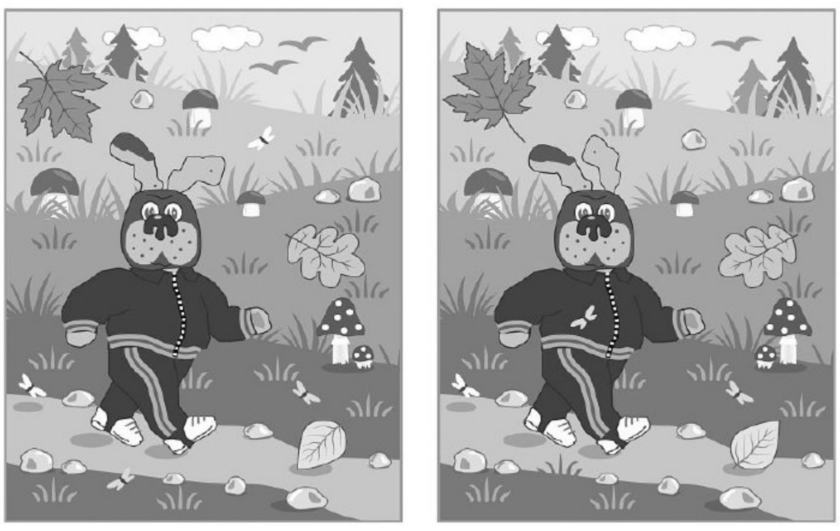
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Find 10 differences.



Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

Jonathan Toews prepares to take a faceoff during the second period of a game against the Canucks on Jan. 24. **DARRYL DYCK/AP**

BLACKHAWKS

The captain's take

'My health is more important': Toews joins teammates at practice, contemplates his future

By Phil Thompson
Chicago Tribune

It was a familiar sight that had become unfamiliar in recent weeks.

Jonathan Toews rejoined Blackhawks teammates for the morning skate Tuesday at the United Center, his first time taking the ice since a Jan. 28 game against the Oilers in Edmonton, Alberta.

"It's nice," said Toews, who has missed the last 25 games. "It's something you take for granted. You definitely realize when you're out of the routine and away from the locker room, not going on the road with the boys, all that stuff, and you're just kind of on your own slugging through every day, so that part of it's not easy.

"It's definitely nice to be back and be on the ice with the guys."

He announced through a team statement on Feb. 19 that he would be stepping away because of challenges with chronic immune response syndrome and long COVID-19.

On Tuesday, Toews took a mostly reflective tone during a nearly 14-minute news conference and strongly hinted that because of his health issues, these could be the 34-year-old's final days in a Hawks sweater — or any NHL sweater.

"Both (possibilities), if I'm being fully honest," Toews said. "I feel like I've said it already, that I've gotten to the point where my health is more important.

"I feel like I have much more to give with my experience in the game and knowing how to play the game, but when day after day you're just pushing through pain, it's just like, to what end?

"When you're young and you're playing for a Stanley Cup and everyone's playing through something, that means something and it's worthwhile. But I'm at that point where it feels like more damage is being done than is a good thing."

Toews said it's not just about having enough energy for the game but for life.

"All that stuff has been nonexistent, really just go home and lay there and try and recover and get ready for the next day," he said. "That's all it's really been."

Toews stopped short of saying definitively that he would retire after the Hawks' last nine games, culminating with the season finale at home against the Philadelphia Flyers on April 13.

"We'll see how things play out," he said. "I can't get myself or get ahead of myself because every time I do, that's when I create the expectations (and) you get on a bit of a mental roller coaster.

"I've said this quite a bit over the last few

Turn to Hawks, *Page 5*

Extension for Hoerner a small, key step forward

Paul Sullivan
In the Wake of the News

PHOENIX — The Cubs signed second baseman Nico Hoerner to a three-year, $35 million extension, according to multiple reports — a small but important step toward the team's future.

The deal with Hoerner, who had a .281 average and 10 home runs in 2022, buys out two years of arbitration and the first year of free agency.

Cubs President Jed Hoyer had yet to sign a prospect to a multiyear deal before free agency, a strategy many other large-market teams have adopted to gain cost certainty while rewarding players they consider part of their future.

While it pales in comparison to with deals such as the eight-year, $100 million extension Ronald Acuña Jr. signed with the Atlanta Braves four years before he was eligible for free agency, it was the Cubs' first multiyear signing of a prospect since David Bote's five-year, $15 million extension in 2019. Hoerner was deemed talented enough to take on a short-term risk but has not proved himself enough to get a mega-deal.

Turn to Sullivan, *Page 2*

SEASON OPENER
Brewers at Cubs
1:20 p.m. Thursday, Marquee

White Sox manager Pedro Grifol pauses in the dugout before a Cactus League game against the Guardians on March 1 in Glendale, Ariz. **ROSS D. FRANKLIN / AP**

WHITE SOX

'He's got some fire in him'

Grifol focused on the here and now as regular season nears

SEASON OPENER
White Sox at Astros
6:08 p.m. Thursday, ESPN

By LaMond Pope | Chicago Tribune

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Pedro Grifol sets expectations roughly seven to 10 days at a time.

"I don't talk about anything past (that)," the White Sox manager said recently. "I think it keeps you in the moment. It keeps you right where you're thinking about, 'OK, where am I right now? Where do I need to be in the next five days, seven days?'

"When you get caught up too far ahead, you don't worry about what's going on right now. You lose sight of what you need to accomplish in this particular moment."

This seven-day period will include a first — Grifol's debut as a major-league manager in a regular-season game with the Sox.

That comes Thursday night against the defending champion Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park. But even Tuesday morning Grifol's mind wasn't on the trip but the final game of the spring against the Cubs.

"Maybe (Wednesday) you can ask that questions and I'll say, 'Yeah, I'm excited,' " Grifol said before the game in Mesa, Ariz.

"I'm excited for (Wednesday) because

Turn to Sox, *Page 2*

BEARS

Warren feels everything is 'right' as team builds

By Colleen Kane | Chicago Tribune

PHOENIX — Kevin Warren's first official day as Bears President and CEO will be April 17.

That's when Warren, who still is working full time as Big Ten commissioner, will begin one-on-one interviews with every Bears employee to assess changes that need to be made to help create a championship-caliber organization.

He'll dive deeper into the financial and logistical challenges the Bears face as they weigh whether to build a new stadium on the former Arlington Park property they just purchased. And he'll continue to establish his working relationships with Bears Chairman George McCaskey, general manager Ryan Poles and coach Matt Eberflus.

But Warren already has been around the Bears and Halas Hall in the 2 ½ months since the team hired him, enacting a transition plan to take over for outgoing President Ted Phillips. He also joined the Bears at the NFL's league meeting this week at the Arizona Biltmore resort.

And he has come away with a sense that looking ahead there's "something special with the Chicago Bears."

"This is not a normal environment of a team that won three football games this year," Warren said. "Most of the time that happens, you're in turmoil. But George is calm, Ryan is calm, Coach Eberflus is calm, I'm calm. We're all connected and

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Team	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
BULLS	LAL 7 p.m. | NBCSCH		@CHA 6 p.m. | NBCSCH		MEM 2:30 p.m. | NBCSCH
BLACKHAWKS		STL 7:30 p.m. | NBCSCH		NJ 7 p.m. | ESPN2	
CUBS		MIL 1:20 p.m. | Marquee		MIL 1:20 p.m. | Marquee	MIL 1:20 p.m. | Marquee
SOX		@HOU 6:08 p.m. | ESPN	@HOU 7:10 p.m. | NBCSCH+, MLBN	@HOU 1:10 p.m. | NBCSCH	@HOU 1:10 p.m. | NBCSCH+
FIRE				DC 7:30 p.m. | Apple TV	
RED STARS				HOU 1 p.m. | Paramount+	

Cubs President Jed Hoyer talks during a news conference to introduce shortstop Dansby Swanson on Dec. 21 at Wrigley Field. **BRIAN CASSELLA /CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

CUBS

Hoyer confident club progressing properly

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

The Cubs faced a crossroads coming off the 2020 season.

A third division title in a five-year span ended with a sweep in the National League Division Series and questions about the core of the roster. Jed Hoyer's promotion to president of baseball operations in November 2020 to replace the resigning Theo Epstein put the direction of the organization in Hoyer's hands. Now entering his third season leading the Cubs, Hoyer's influence in shaping the big-league roster is apparent.

Of the 47 players to appear in a game for the Cubs in 2020, only five remain on the 40-man roster: Ian Happ, Nico Hoerner, Patrick Wisdom, Kyle Hendricks and Adbert Alzolay. Four others — David Bote, Rowan Wick, Brad Wieck and Brailyn Marquez — are in the minor leagues.

An offseason plan built around pitching and defense brought in Dansby Swanson, Cody Bellinger and Jameson Taillon, notably adding athletic defenders at premium positions. It reflects how Hoyer envisions building a winning team.

"We're on the front edge of where we want to be," Hoyer said in a conversation with the Tribune. "My ideal would be to have a lot of same elements we have on this team but also to have it with more of an influx of young players. And we haven't had that start yet, but I think we look at where our system is, it's coming really quickly."

Those young players rising through the system came, in part, through Hoyer's trades that ranged from money-saving moves to trade-deadline deals of World Series champion icons or impending free agents.

Prospects Pete Crow-Armstrong, Owen Caissie, Kevin Alcántara, Ben Brown and Alexander Canario all could debut by the end of next season while Caleb Kilian, bouncing back with a strong spring, should get another big-league opportunity at some point this season. Right-hander Hayden Wesneski, acquired from the New York Yankees for reliever Scott Effross in August, earned a spot in the rotation with a stellar Cactus League performance after a great finish to 2022 as a September call-up.

"When I got the job, there were a lot of really important decisions that had to be made really quickly, and in a lot of ways I think I benefited from that where obviously I had a great feel for the organization and I knew the decisions that had to be made, but I also felt incredibly prepared to make those," Hoyer said. "And they were really difficult ones and ones I knew would have a huge impact on our future, so yeah, I felt totally prepared to do it and felt like I was the right person to be doing it."

This head decision-making position isn't new for Hoyer after spending two years as the San Diego Padres general manager before reuniting with Epstein in Chicago as his right-hand man in the GM role. His experience in San Diego, while a different market size, payroll situation and media scrutiny, provided some of the groundwork as his job experience with the Cubs has evolved.

Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts works closely with Hoyer and has enjoyed watching him come into his own as the leader of baseball operations. He appreciates Hoyer's open thinking and how he brainstorms and discusses ideas.

"He's really good at asking questions, particularly about the stuff he's thinking about and asking for, not necessarily advice, but input," Ricketts told the Tribune in January. "Like, 'Am I thinking about this the right way? Any questions you would have if you were me on this?' His style is a little bit different than Theo's, but I think he gets to the right answers, maybe a little more conversationally too."

Hoyer's job inherently means some at times will see him as the bad guy with certain decisions involving fan-favorite players. He understands that comes with his position.

"I guess the way I always try to think about it is was, it's not just me," Hoyer said. "It's a whole group of really smart people that were making decisions together. Obviously I'm the final decision maker, but I try to look at it as a team. And I try to have an intellectual and emotional purity about it, which I've never done and I'll never do something I don't believe is in the best interests of the Cubs ... and if that makes me unpopular at times, I totally get it.

"Sometimes, for obvious reasons, people don't have all of the information, so I get it. People are passionate about sports. People will be upset with me if I trade their favorite players at times. But ultimately my entire focus is on the logo."

The Cubs' overhaul of their pitching development over the last five years has been a concerted effort, strides that have been paying off at the big-league level. Optimizing pitchers' strengths and talent is a full organizational effort with assistant general manager and vice president of pitching Craig Breslow and the big-league coaching staff, including pitching coach Tommy Hottovy, assistant pitching coach Daniel Moskos and bullpen coach Chris Young, and the minor-league pitching infrastructure, led by senior coordinator of pitching development Casey Jacobson and coordinator of pitching performance James Ogden.

Major-league camp provided a showcase of the arms coming through the organization.

"I really hope this is just the beginning, like, if this is the endpoint, that's not good enough," Hoyer said. "But I look down at the minor leagues and look at the arms we have and my hope is that this is the start of having a lot of pitching depth."

Eventually player development must translate into wins and postseason success, and the Cubs are approaching the point at which losing seasons could start costing people their jobs. With the money the Cubs invested in the major-league payroll in the offseason — see Swanson's seven-year, $177 million contract, the second-largest in franchise history — they need to perform like a postseason contender rather than a team heading toward its third consecutive losing season.

Hoyer believes the Cubs are on the verge of a new era of success. It will be on manager David Ross and the team to prove him right.

"We want to build a team that can be competitive," Hoyer said. "The best version of us pitches really well, plays really good defense and is really aggressive, and I think those teams can absolutely win so I do think that's the expectation. ... As an organization I feel like you can really feel the momentum here."

Sullivan

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Hoerner, who moved to second after the signing of shortstop Dansby Swanson to a seven-year, $177 million contract, agreed to a $2.5 million deal in 2022, avoiding arbitration. The extension takes him through 2026, meaning the Cubs have a double-play combination set in stone for four years.

A first-round draft pick out of Stanford in 2018, Horner was rushed to the majors from Double-A Tennessee in September 2019 when shortstop Javier Báez was out with a thumb injury and Addison Russell was hit in the face with pitch. After impressing the Cubs in his debut, Horner slumped in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, hitting .222 in 44 ames and was left off the roster at the start of the next season despite hitting .364 in spring training.

2022 was his first full non-pandemic season, and Hoerner posted career highs in home runs and RBIs (55) while posting a .736 OPS after replacing Báez at short. Báez finished the season with a .671 OPS after signing a six-year, $140 million deal with the Detroit Tigers.

Hoerner made the move to second to accommodate Swanson, switching from his preferred and natural position. The transition went smoothly this spring, with Hoerner saying he had no qualms about the change.

"I think it's somewhat simpler without the shift," Horner said. "Oftentimes that's where the real communication of playing out of position comes into play. It's going to be more like baseball as we knew it. I really believe if you can play short, you can play anywhere on the field."

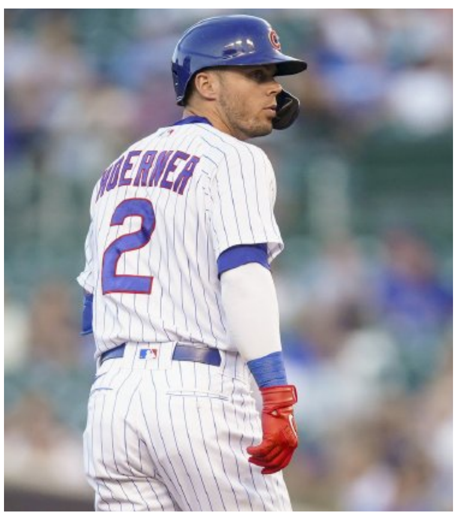
Hoerner and Ian Happ were considered the two prime candidates for an extension this spring. While negotiations can continue through the season, an opening-day deadline has been the norm since Theo Epstein became Cubs president in 2011.

Happ, who will be a free agent in November, had not received an extension as of Monday night, when he and most of the rest of the roster flew to Chicago to prepare for Thursday's season opener against the Milwaukee Brewers at Wrigley Field.

Hoyer declined to address Happ's situation Monday, citing the team's stance not to talk about contract issues. The news of Hoerner's extension was leaked Monday night.

Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts alluded to Hoerner and Happ when he spoke with the media early in spring training about locking up players.

"Obviously we have a couple guys we'd love to extend, but if it doesn't work out, that's OK too," Ricketts said. "I appreciate that they would rather test the market. It's up to Jed."



The Cubs' Nico Hoerner stands on second base after hitting a double during the second inning against the Orioles at Wrigley Field on July 12. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Happ has watched several teammates go through their walk seasons and deal with trade rumors, so he knows what to expect if he doesn't get an extension.

"Every experience prepares you," he told the Tribune earlier this spring. "It prepared you for last year by watching guys that went through it in '21. It's part of the game and you don't really know how you are going to feel until you go through something like that.

"But once you've been through it a couple times, you have an understanding for it."

If Happ remains unsigned, he likely will go through the same scenario Willson Contreras experienced last summer, including several goodbyes at Wrigley.

Hoyer also would not address that possibility or anything about Happ's future. But he lauded Happ for dealing with the distractions of trade rumors.

"Last year he put together what we'd been waiting for," Hoyer said. "Last year he really put it together from beginning to end and was unbelievably valuable. He worked really hard on his defense. Obviously deserves a Gold Glove and he won one. To do that despite those (trade) rumors was really impressive."

Happ hasn't made his desire to remain a Cub a secret and has developed a close bond with the left-field bleacher bums, who gave him an autographed ball in July when they thought he might have played his final game with the team.

"They're there every day no matter what, no matter the weather, from April till now, and they care so much," Happ said afterward. "That was really meaningful."

But Happ knows it's a business.

And after watching many friends leave the Cubs, he's prepared for anything as the 2023 season begins.

Sox

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we're practicing, but right now I'm not there yet. I'm going through stuff with (pitching coach) Ethan (Katz), going through pitching for the day, how we're going to get through this game.

"Maybe when I get on the plane I'll feel different, but not right now."

Grifol, 53, spent the 10 previous seasons in various roles with the Kansas City Royals, including the last three as bench coach.

"The last two years in Kansas City I got to know him pretty well," Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi, who played for the Royals in 2021 and a part of 2022, told the Tribune. "He's very adamant about getting your work done, getting your ground balls, baserunning, hitting, going back to the little things and focusing on those.

"I've had four or five managers and communication is always the one thing a player wants the most of, whether it be good or bad. Just tell us straight up. That's something we look for and that (Grifol) does pretty well."

General manager Rick Hahn has noticed that communication from Grifol throughout the organization.

"It's not just the communication with the front office, but it's also got to be his communication with the players directly, his communication with his coaches in spring training, the player-development folks, as well as our scouts," Hahn told the Tribune. "And it's a lot to ask, but he obviously was very well-prepared when he entered this position. And I'm sure he had spent a lot of time thinking how he would manage a spring once he did get his opportunity.

"(It) really feels like no stones have been left unturned. The focus on certain priorities (during workouts in the backfield) has been great. There's been no eye wash, there's no idle time. It's really been, he and his coaches, it's been great."

Sox hitting coach José Castro said Grifol is "very detailed, very smart."

"He's got some fire in him," Castro said earlier in camp. "Amazing guy. Very, very good communicator, just the whole package."

Sox starter Lucas Giolito enjoyed Grifol's approach to camp "as far as being very focused, creating that good culture, bringing everyone together (and) working for a common goal."

Grifol thought it was a productive camp.

"I was really happy with the camp and the amount of things that were happening throughout," he said. "The intensity level was good, the work was good. We're still working on things. Maybe that's just me and my mindset — we've always got to find a way to get better."

Honest feedback from those close to him is helping Grifol in that area.

"I have my coaching staff, I have my people that cross-check me and keep me in check," he said earlier in camp. "I get evaluated too by people that I put in place to evaluate me and keep it real with me and tell me where I need to improve. And (they're) always telling me areas of strength and areas of development I need.

"I have a group of people that keep me honest and (who are) not afraid to tell me, 'You suck. You need to get better.' "

Grifol said he was once a victim of looking too far ahead and changed that habit a few years ago.

"I'm always locked in," he said. "You almost program yourself to it.

"For years and years, you look at the schedule and like 'OK, June we are going here and we want to do this.' We are at the end of March. I'm focused about right now."

White Sox make 7 roster moves: The Sox announced seven roster moves after Monday's game, reassigning pitcher Keynan Middleton, catcher Sebastián Rivero, infielders Erik González and Zach Remillard and outfielders Billy Hamilton, Adam Haseley and Jake Marisnick to minor-league camp.

With the moves, the Sox have 33 players remaining in camp: 18 pitchers, two catchers, nine infielders and four outfielders.

Bears quarterback Justin Fields makes a pass in the first quarter against the Eagles on Dec. 18 at Soldier Field. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

BEARS

‘Special’ potential

Bears betting QB Fields can become elite as they make upgrades to offense

By Colleen Kane | Chicago Tribune

PHOENIX — As Bears general manager Ryan Poles explored his options for the No. 1 draft pick the last two months, he emphasized keeping quarterback Justin Fields in the loop.

The Bears’ plan was for Fields to remain their starter. But with the top selection in April’s draft, Poles and his staff also committed to evaluating the crop of quarterback prospects to make sure the Bears wanted to pass on picking them. Poles told Fields as much.

So when Poles in mid-March decided to trade the pick to the Carolina Panthers and drop back to No. 9, the GM texted the quarterback. Not only did the move cement the team’s commitment to Fields and give the Bears additional second-round picks this year and in 2025 and an extra first-round pick in 2024, it also gave Fields a No. 1 receiver to throw to — 25-year-old DJ Moore.

Poles, however, didn’t hear back from Fields right away with the expected response.

“I didn’t get a response for a while,” Poles said during an interview with Chicago reporters this week at the annual NFL meeting at the Arizona Biltmore resort. “I said, ‘Are you sleeping?’ And then he actually was. He took a nap. He woke up and he was pumped up. He got to connect with DJ, and he’s fired up.”

The likely course always seemed to be the Bears committing to Fields for 2023 after he threw for 2,242 yards, 17 touchdowns and 11 interceptions and rushed for 1,143 yards and eight touchdowns in his first season under coach Matt Eberflus and offensive coordinator Luke Getsy.

The Bears passing game last season was the worst in the league, but issues with pass protection and a lack of reliable targets for Fields played a big part in those woes. The idea that Fields could continue to make strides with another year in Getsy’s system and better talent around him fueled Poles’ belief that he should have to be “blown away” by a quarterback prospect to move on from Fields.

Poles, Eberflus and their staffs watched a ton of tape on the top quarterback prospects, which include Alabama’s Bryce Young, Ohio State’s C.J. Stroud, Kentucky’s Will Levis and Florida’s Anthony Richardson. They met with some of the quarterbacks at the combine and then mapped out what traits each might bring to the organization.

“I really needed something to take me so far above Justin where we didn’t want to look behind the curtain and see how this was going to play out,” Poles said. “I feel really good about Justin, still do. I think these quarterback prospects are going to have good careers too.

“I think having (Fields) in the building and seeing the progress that he made his first year and getting familiar with our system. Obviously there’s special in the athletic traits. We’ve seen in college his ability to use his arm, too, so I believe when all that comes together we can have something special.”

The Bears have worked over the last month to build more around Fields.

They acquired Moore, who had three seasons of more than 1,100 receiving yards with the Panthers. Moore will join a wide receivers room that also could use increased production from Chase Claypool, who joined the team midseason in 2022, and Darnell Mooney, who missed five games because of injury.

“The one thing I really like is we have three different types of receivers,” Poles said. “We’ve got a guy (in Claypool) who’s a big body guy that can play inside/outside. We have Mooney who can separate and run vertically and make plays. Then DJ is just a strong, physical guy who can separate and make plays after the catch too. I like how everything’s set up. And then you throw Cole (Kmet) in the mix too. (Fields) has weapons. We have to continue to work up front and get better there too.”

The Bears also added former Green Bay Packers tight end Robert Tonyan, former Tennessee Titans guard Nate Davis and former Panthers running back D’Onta Foreman in free agency. Eberflus gave quick rundowns on each of those additions during a breakfast with reporters Tuesday morning before another day of league meetings.

He called Tonyan “another big target that is familiar with (Getsy’s) offense that for us is really going help us in the passing game” and said he will couple with Kmet “certainly in the third downs and red-zone area where you need those big-body guys.”

He said Foreman, who will share the load with returning running back Khalil Herbert, is “a big runner who can really get things downhill and can take it the distance. And he is very competitive.”

Eberflus coached against Davis for years and saw “an aggressive, our-style type of player who can really move people at the second level.”

An upgrade at offensive tackle is still a major piece the Bears are missing in their quest to build a better offense after pursuit of free agent Mike McGlinchey didn’t pan out. As of now, the Bears have left tackle Braxton Jones and Larry Borom or Alex Leatherwood as likely options right tackle.

Poles indicated help on the line could come via the draft, and the Bears could have several good options at No. 9 in Ohio State’s Paris Johnson Jr., Northwestern’s Peter Skoronski and Georgia’s Broderick Jones.

“When you get to this point of free agency ... the salaries drop off, talent, experience drops off,” Poles said of potentially signing an offensive tackle in the coming weeks. “You do have a wave players offensively and defensively that will go through the draft because they kind of want to see how everything settles. So we’ll keep an eye on those players. But right now to improve our team, I think we’ve got to look to the draft.”

Beyond the upgrades in offensive talent, the Bears also are counting on Fields to take the next steps in development.

Eberflus said the Bears hope to dive deeper into their work on the passing game by doing longer 7-on-7 drills and focusing more on situational football — two minute, third down and red zone — during OTAs.

Like Poles, Eberflus believes they made the right decision in putting their faith in Fields.

“He took a step in the right direction,” Eberflus said. “Obviously he made some dynamic plays that the whole league was talking about. ... Just like our whole football team, it’s a young team, and he needs to take that next step as the rest of us do.

“We’re solidifying the offensive line and we’re getting the skill sets around that we need to move the ball down the field and score points, and we’re excited about where we’re going.”

Bears

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working together, and I think there’s a sense around the NFL community that we have the right people at the right time in the right situation focused on the right issues. And none of us have egos and that we’re doing the right thing. I really love the energy we have developed and are building, and I’m confident that we’ll do well together.”

The potential development of a new Arlington Heights stadium complex was on the top of the list of questions for Warren as he spoke with Chicago reporters Monday in Phoenix.

Warren said work on the possible development really begins now since the Bears closed on the land in February. At the time, the team sent an open letter to fans stating the project would require assistance, including “securing property tax certainty and support for infrastructure commensurate with the public benefits the project will yield to the region.”

Warren knows from his work helping to drive the Minnesota Vikings’ U.S. Bank Stadium project as chief operating officer that patience and creativity are key in what will be a yearslong process if the Bears do decide to build. He said the NFL stressed at the meetings this week that the league is a resource, not an adversary as they get deeper into that process.

While Warren has walked the property and believes the site “feels right,” he said he will have a better understanding of the timeline for a potential stadium, as well as the obstacles ahead, when he begins formal meetings about it. (He believes a good general estimate would be three years from groundbreaking to opening.)

But he already senses excitement about what the stadium — and a potential entertainment complex around it — could bring to fans.

“What it comes down to is to focus on the why. Why is it important?” Warren said. “You think about the impact (U.S. Bank Stadium) has had in Minnesota, one just from a pride standpoint. People are prideful about a new stadium. And then to host the NCAA Final Four and Super Bowls and all the other events and watch your kids having midnight baseball games there, that’s a pride point.

“Also what it did in Minnesota is it was actually a great recruiter for businesses, even if you weren’t going to a game there. Those are things that, as we design this whole ecosystem with our stadium in Arlington Park, we have to create that environment where people when they come to visit in Chicago, they want to come see the new Chicago Bears stadium and work for companies there and all that. So that’s the part that’s so exciting about it. It’s much more than just a building. Really it’s building an energy center. And that does have a positive impact.”

On the football side, Warren already has had formal meetings with Poles to get a better feel for the general manager’s philosophy and priorities and how he approaches the draft, free agency and building a roster as he tries to turn the Bears around.

He said his rapport with Poles equates to “the way you feel about your college roommate,” as if they’ve known each other for years. And he was thrilled to watch how Poles handled trading the No. 1 draft pick to the Carolina Panthers earlier this month for a haul of draft picks and wide receiver DJ Moore.

“He is not only smart. He’s intelligent,” Warren said. “He has a high IQ, has a high EQ. He’s thorough. He’s diligent. He’s methodical. And he’s unflappable. Because anytime when you handle these trades, especially when you have the No. 1 pick and make these determinations, it’s an emotional roller coaster. So he’s passionate but he’s not emotional. He stayed really steady. He’s a great communicator, and it was just incredible to really watch him.”

In just a few weeks, Warren will delve deeper into that relationship with Poles and numerous other employees.

But he already has an idea of one way they can measure progress as his Bears tenure gets underway.

“Every time I walk into the building, I look at that statue of George Halas and I ask God to give me the strength to do what I need to do to make him proud,” Warren said. “There have been many a days where I have stopped in the chapel to pray, and before I go home I look at that statue and I ask myself, ‘If he had been with me every moment of that day, would he be proud of what I did?’ And if we get a collective group of people who can do that every single day, we’ll all be proud of the work we’ll be able to put in here over the next couple of years.”

BULLS

White’s playmaking developing at right time

By Julia Poe | Chicago Tribune

LOS ANGELES — Coby White has quietly become one of the most important Bulls players with the ball in his hands.

The reserve guard has oscillated from shooting guard to point guard throughout his career with the Bulls. But this season has seen White finally develop equal confidence making reads as he drives to the rim and shoots 3-pointers.

White’s facilitating production has exploded in the final stretch, climbing to 4.2 assists per game in March after averaging fewer than two assists in the first three months of the season.

“Over the course of the season, I think I earned my coach’s trust with the ball in my hands and pick-and-rolls,” White said. “I give a lot of credit to him for giving me the opportunity to play with the ball in my hands.”

Developing decision-making has been a focal point for White. He isn’t quite a point guard a shooting guard, instead operating in a middle zone as he balances long-range shots with an improved ability to cut to the rim and spray passes to his teammates.

White’s shooting always has been a touch streaky, but these new aspects of his game have stayed consistent even on an off night from 3-point range. He went 0-for-3 from long range Monday and 3-for-8 overall in a 124-112 loss to the Clippers in Los Angeles. The Bulls entered Tuesday in 10th place in the Eastern Conference, one game behind the Atlanta Hawks and Toronto Raptors and three ahead of the Washington Wizards.

“He’s been very decisive,” guard Zach LaVine said. “We all know how good he can shoot the ball, but making the reads, hitting the pocket, hitting the crosscourt pass with a low man — I don’t think it’s talked about enough how much of a challenge he’s been taking up.”

When White first landed on the Bulls roster as a 19-year-old first-round draft pick in 2019, he was immediately met with a bombardment of skepticism over whether he could play as a true point guard. He was thrust into the position with little warning, playing outside the shoot-first, ask-questions-later comfort zone he built during a single season at North Carolina.

Coach Billy Donovan recognizes those early years were full of growing pains for White. But he also celebrates the way White embraced that period of uncertainty to build himself beyond the definition he carried into the league.

“There’s this internal conviction that he has in himself,” Donovan said. “It was kind of rocky for him in terms of a limited amount of basketball, never mind going into the NBA and being a starting point guard. And there was never ever a wavering.”

Donovan describes White as “stubborn” — a word that White also uses for himself — in the way he faces challenges. After seeing that he was being targeted by opposing offenses as a weak link, he spent the summer focused heavily on growing into the type of defender who stepped in front of Austin Reaves to draw a charge in Sunday’s win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

White took the same approach to his ball-handling and distribution in the offseason, molding a confidence that has paid dividends.

“He’s not a finger pointer. He’s not a blamer,” Donovan said. “He really truly looks at himself.”

White’s increased ability to put the ball on the floor is critical toward improving a key part of the offense — challenging opposing defenders when they close out on perimeter shots.

Donovan has emphasized the importance of attacking closeouts since the first day of preseason. The Bulls field plenty of strong shooters but can stretch and strain opposing teams much more effectively if they pull defenders out to their shot, then drive past them to attack the rim.

This is where the Bulls generate two of the best parts of their game: rim finishing and spray-out passes for catch-and-shoot 3s.

“The more we can get Ayo (Dosunmu), Coby, Zach, Patrick (Williams), those guys at least attacking closeouts — we’ve done a really good job this year moving the ball and creating closeouts,” Donovan said. “But if you look at our efficiency, I think that’s what’s helped our offense.

“We’ve gotten better at handling those situations in terms of guys making a decision of whether to make an extra pass, whether to drive the ball, whether to just to shoot it. And the more we can take advantage of those opportunities and be good at them, it’s going to really help us offensively.”

Bulls guard Coby White drives to the basket against the Lakers during the second half on Sunday. **MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP**

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
y-Boston	74	57	12	5	119	276	159
x-Toronto	73	44	20	9	97	251	203
Tampa Bay	75	43	26	6	92	257	230
Florida	74	36	31	7	79	257	256
Buffalo	73	35	31	7	77	261	271
Ottawa	74	36	33	5	77	236	240
Detroit	73	32	32	9	73	216	242
Montreal	75	30	39	6	66	217	276

METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
x-Carolina	73	47	17	9	103	241	192
x-New Jersey	74	46	20	8	100	257	206
x-N.Y. Rangers	74	44	20	10	98	253	200
N.Y. Islanders	75	38	28	9	85	224	206
Pittsburgh	74	36	28	10	82	239	243
Washington	74	34	32	8	76	236	231
Philadelphia	73	29	32	12	70	198	238
Columbus	73	23	43	7	53	198	291

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Minnesota	74	43	22	9	95	224	199
Colorado	73	44	23	6	94	245	201
Dallas	74	40	20	14	94	255	205
Winnipeg	74	41	30	3	85	222	209
Nashville	73	37	28	8	82	206	217
St. Louis	74	34	34	6	74	242	273
Arizona	75	27	35	13	67	211	262
Chicago	74	24	44	6	54	180	266

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Vegas	73	46	21	6	98	242	205
Los Angeles	73	43	20	10	96	258	236
Edmonton	74	42	23	9	93	291	251
Seattle	73	40	25	8	88	254	236
Calgary	74	33	26	15	81	238	232
Vancouver	74	34	34	6	74	256	276
Anaheim	74	23	41	10	56	190	302
San Jose	73	19	39	15	53	209	286

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 3, Montreal 2
N.Y. Rangers 6, Columbus 2
Tampa Bay 4, Carolina 0
Nashville 2, Boston 1
Detroit 7, Pittsburgh 4
St. Louis 6, Vancouver 5(OT)
Dallas 4, Chicago 1
Los Angeles at Calgary, late
Edmonton at Vegas, late
Winnipeg at San Jose, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Florida at Toronto, 6:30p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 6:30p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Boston, 6p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 6p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 6p.m.
Nashville at Pittsburgh, 6p.m.
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 6p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 6p.m.
Carolina at Detroit, 6:30p.m.
St. Louis at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 8p.m.
Anaheim at Seattle, 9p.m.
Vegas at San Jose, 9:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 6p.m.
Detroit at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 9p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 9:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 5, Florida 2
Montreal 4, Buffalo 3(SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5, New Jersey 1
Minnesota 5, Seattle 1
Colorado 5, Anaheim 1
Edmonton 5, Arizona 4

GOLF

STROKES GAINED: TOTAL

PGA TOUR	AVG	SG:T
Jon Rahm	2.498	64.945
Scottie Scheffler	2.283	68.502
Max Homa	2.166	75.816
Tony Finau	2.076	60.216
Tyrrell Hatton	2.005	40.105
Jason Day	1.903	68.495
Patrick Cantlay	1.836	44.060
Rory McIlroy	1.633	29.385
Collin Morikawa	1.622	37.306
Xander Schauffele	1.580	34.770
Tommy Fleetwood	1.492	32.832
Sungjae Im	1.378	53.745
Tom Hoge	1.316	48.692
Rickie Fowler	1.283	39.771
Viktor Hovland	1.224	31.825
Chris Kirk	1.149	37.916
Taylor Montgomery	1.093	48.083
Tom Kim	1.079	34.533
Nick Taylor	1.076	37.649
Justin Rose	1.07	27.931
Justin Thomas	1.067	33.064
Si Woo Kim	1.034	36.197
Keith Mitchell	1.017	37.643
Jordan Spieth	1.012	30.371
Ben Taylor	.980	37.235
Matt Kuchar	.940	24.450
Brendon Todd	.937	31.842
Maverick McNealy	.930	27.907
Wyndham Clark	.928	40.811
Adam Hadwin	.903	33.428
Ben Griffin	.893	38.413
Keegan Bradley	.877	25.431
Cameron Percy	.873	12.216
Sam Ryder	.867	30.358
Hideki Matsuyama	.865	28.537
Taylor Moore	.855	35.057
Kevin Yu	.817	18.794
Adam Svensson	.804	37.002
Danny Willett	.771	22.355
Andrew Putnam	.728	29.116
Denny McCarthy	.713	32.066
Stephan Jaeger	.678	31.178
Matt Fitzpatrick	.669	15.389
Sam Burns	.655	20.317
Cameron Young	.641	16.677
Shane Lowry	.636	14.000
Thomas Detry	.623	18.704
K.H. Lee	.609	20.095
Kurt Kitayama	.600	15.002
Sahith Theegala	.572	24.026
Will Zalatoris	.567	10.781
S.H. Kim	.544	26.654
Adam Schenk	.500	22.520
Patrick Rodgers	.494	16.311
Jhonattan Vegas	.478	9.560
William McGirt	.477	4.774
Alex Noren	.463	12.043
58. Eric Cole	.452	15.379
59. Sepp Straka	.447	12.970
60. Matt Wallace	.439	10.971

LPGA TOUR	AVG	SG:T
1. Hae Ran Ryu	3.130	9.400
2. Pavarisa Yoktuan	2.940	8.830
3. Celine Borge	2.870	8.610
4. Atthaya Thitikul	2.780	19.460
5. Jin Young Ko	2.760	27.650
6. Annie Park	2.580	7.750
7. Maddie Szeryk	2.500	7.490
8. Nelly Korda	2.320	27.850
9. Lilia Vu	2.220	17.760
10. Jennifer Song	1.730	5.190
10. Mel Reid	1.730	5.190
12. Charley Hull	1.700	18.680
13. Hyo Joo Kim	1.590	12.760
13. Daniela Darquea	1.590	3.180
15. Emily K. Pedersen	1.510	9.080
16. Ashleigh Buhai	1.470	17.680
17. Yuka Saso	1.470	17.680
18. Eun-Hee Ji	1.380	13.750
19. Dana Fall	1.370	2.730
19. Ruoning Yin	1.370	4.120
21. Georgia Hall	1.330	10.660
22. Sei Young Kim	1.270	14.000
23. Stephanie Meadow	1.240	3.730
24. Lydia Ko	1.190	9.520
25. Leona Maguire	1.140	13.720
25. Nasa Hataoka	1.140	13.730
27. Jenny Shin	1.100	9.920
28. Lauren Coughlin	1.070	4.270
28. Xiaowen Yin	1.070	3.220
30. Alexa Pano	1.060	3.190
31. Wei-Ling Hsu	0.890	6.210
31. Maja Stark	0.890	10.680
33. Moriya Jutanugarn	0.770	11.600
34. Jodi Ewart Shadoff	0.760	11.380
35. Azahara Munoz	0.730	2.190
35. Pernilla Lindberg	0.730	2.190
35. Albane Valenzuela	0.730	2.190
35. Yaeeun Hong	0.730	2.190
39. Peiyun Chien	0.720	1.440
40. Celine Boutier	0.690	6.930
41. Anna Nordqvist	0.640	7.680
41. Danielle Kang	0.640	7.640
41. Muni He	0.640	2.570
44. Hye-Jin Choi	0.630	5.080
45. Xiyu Lin	0.610	4.870

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Boston	52	24	.684	—
x-Philadelphia	49	26	.653	2½
New York	43	33	.566	9
Brooklyn	40	35	.533	11½
Toronto	38	38	.500	14

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	40	36	.526	—
Atlanta	38	38	.500	2
Washington	34	42	.447	6
Orlando	32	44	.421	8
Charlotte	26	51	.338	14½

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Milwaukee	54	21	.720	—
x-Cleveland	48	29	.623	7
Chicago	36	39	.480	18
Indiana	33	43	.434	21½
Detroit	16	59	.213	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Memphis	48	27	.640	—
New Orleans	38	37	.507	10
Dallas	37	39	.487	11½
San Antonio	19	56	.253	29
Houston	18	58	.237	30½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Denver	51	24	.680	—
Minnesota	39	37	.513	12½
Oklahoma City	37	39	.487	14½
Utah	35	40	.467	16
Portland	32	43	.427	19

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Sacramento	45	30	.600	—
Phoenix	40	35	.533	5
L.A. Clippers	40	36	.526	5½
Golden State	39	37	.513	6½
L.A. Lakers	37	38	.493	8

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 130, Boston 111
Toronto 106, Miami 92
Atlanta 120, Cleveland 118
Charlotte 137, Oklahoma City 134
Memphis 113, Orlando 108
New Orleans at Golden State, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Indiana, 6p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 6:30p.m.
Houston at Brooklyn, 6:30p.m.
Miami at New York, 6:30p.m.
Detroit at Oklahoma City, 7p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 7p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 9p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Milwaukee, 6:30p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 9p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Charlotte, 6p.m.
Oklahoma City at Indiana, 6p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 6p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 6:30p.m.
New York at Cleveland, 6:30p.m.
Utah at Boston, 6:30p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 7p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 7p.m.
Sacramento at Portland, 9p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 9p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 127, Indiana 104
Milwaukee 126, Detroit 117
New York 137, Houston 115
Phoenix 117, Utah 103
Denver 116, Philadelphia 111
New Orleans 124, Portland 90
Minnesota 119, Sacramento 115
L.A. Clippers 124, Chicago 112

SEASON SCORING BY QUARTER

through Monday; basketball-reference

OVERTIME1	DATE	TM	FG	FGA	PT
De'Aaron Fox	2-11	SAC	3	4	14
Donovan Mitchell	1-2	CLE	4	4	13
Tyrese Haliburton	3-9	IND	4	4	12
Jaylen Brown	1-28	BOS	3	4	11
Caris LeVert	10-28	CLE	2	3	11

4TH QUARTER	DATE	TM	FG	FGA	PT
Darius Garland	11-13	CLE	8	16	27
Joel Embiid	11-13	PHI	7	8	26
Kyrie Irving	2-13	DAL	11	12	26
Damian Lillard	3-17	POR	6	7	25
Jaylen Brown	12-23	BOS	8	14	23
De'Aaron Fox	1-3	SAC	9	10	22
Norman Powell	11-29	LAC	7	9	22
Anthony Davis	12-9	LAL	5	6	21
De'Aaron Fox	1-28	SAC	8	13	21
Kyrie Irving	1-28	BRK	8	15	21
Kyrie Irving	10-24	BRK	7	9	21
Kyrie Irving	1-19	BRK	8	11	21
Kyrie Irving	1-20	BRK	7	10	21
Damion Lee	1-13	PHO	7	11	21
Damian Lillard	2-26	POR	6	12	21
Cam Thomas	12-10	BRK	8	11	21

3RD QUARTER	DATE	TM	FG	FGA	PT
Ja Morant	2-28	MEM	10	12	28
Devin Booker	11-30	PHO	10	11	26
Kevin Durant	12-18	BRK	8	10	26
Julius Randle	3-20	NYK	9	10	26
Boj. Bogdanovic	12-11	DET	7	9	25
Damian Lillard	1-25	POR	9	11	24
Donovan Mitchell	1-2	CLE	6	9	24
Jayson Tatum	2-15	BOS	9	11	24
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	12-16	OKC	7	11	23
Joel Embiid	3-7	PHI	6	11	22
Ja Morant	12-27	MEM	6	10	22
Jordan Poole	3-2	GSW	5	9	22
Anfernee Simons	10-24	POR	8	9	22
Stephen Curry	3-15	GSW	9	11	21
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	11-13	OKC	7	10	21
Kawhi Leonard	2-24	LAC	8	8	21
Ja Morant	12-4	MEM	8	10	21

2ND QUARTER	DATE	TM	FG	FGA	PT
Damian Lillard	2-26	POR	8	11	25
Jordan Nwora	3-25	IND	9	11	25
Damian Lillard	2-13	POR	8	12	24
Jordan Poole	1-16	GSW	9	11	23
Stephen Curry	10-23	GSW	6	8	21
Joel Embiid	12-11	PHI	6	8	20
De'Andre Hunter	12-14	ATL	6	9	20
Damian Lillard	1-17	POR	5	6	20
Tyrese Maxey	3-27	PHI	8	11	20

1ST QUARTER	DATE	TM	FG	FGA	PT
Luka Doncic	1-30	DAL	7	8	24
Anfernee Simons	12-3	POR	8	10	23
Luka Doncic	12-31	DAL	8	11	22
Luka Doncic	10-22	DAL	8	10	21
Luka Doncic	2-2	DAL	7	11	21
Giannis Antetokounmpo	1-23	MIL	6	6	20
Jaylen Brown	12-04	BOS	6	7	20
Jalen Brunson	2-10	NYK	8	10	20
Joel Embiid	12-09	PHI	8	9	20
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2-04	OKC	7	10	20
Damian Lillard	2-10	POR	5	6	20
Jamal Murray	3-19	DEN	7	10	20
Julius Randle	3-03	NYK	7	9	20
Klay Thompson	11-20	GSW	7	9	20

XFL FOOTBALL

NORTH	W	L	PCT	PF	PA
DC	6	0	1.000	171	116
St. Louis	4	2	.667	139	112
Seattle	4	2	.667	128	107
Vegas	1	5	.167	111	163
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Houston	4	2	.667	162	113
Arlington	3	3	.500	78	101
San Antonio	2	4	.333	89	88
Orlando	0	6	.000	100	178

WEEK 6

MONDAY'S RESULT
DC 37, Houston 26

WEEK 7

FRIDAY'S GAME
Seattle at Arlington, 6p.m.
SATURDAY'S GAMES
San Antonio at Vegas, 2p.m.
DC at Orlando, 5p.m.
SUNDAY'S GAME
St. Louis at Houston, 1p.m.

WEEK 8

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Vegas at St. Louis, noon
Arlington at Orlando, 3p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 9
Houston at San Antonio, 2p.m.
DC at Seattle, 6p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT

At Orleans Arena, Las Vegas
TUESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
North Texas 56, Wisconsin 54
Utah Valley (28-8) vs. UAB (28-9), late

THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
North Texas (30-7) vs.
UAB/Utah Valley State, 8:40 p.m.

WOMEN'S NIT

WEDNESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Kansas (23-11) vs.
Washington (19-14), 6:30p.m.
Columbia (27-5) vs.
Bowling Green (31-6),5p.m..

SATURDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Semifinal winners, 4:30p.m.

MLB SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
L.A. Angels	17	11	.607
Kansas City	19	13	.594
Houston	14	10	.583
Baltimore	16	13	.552
Toronto	17	15	.531
Seattle	14	13	.519
Tampa Bay	15	14	.517
Boston	14	14	.500
Minnesota	14	15	.483
Detroit	14	16	.467
Texas	13	15	.464
Chi. White Sox	12	14	.462
Cleveland	12	16	.429
N.Y. Yankees	13	18	.419
Oakland	11	17	.393
NATIONAL LEAGUE	**W**	**L**	**PCT.**
St. Louis	17	7	.708
Atlanta	18	10	.643
Chi. Cubs	17	12	.586
L.A. Dodgers	14	12	.538
Arizona	16	14	.533
Washington	13	12	.520
Cincinnati	15	14	.517
San Diego	15	14	.517
Philadelphia	16	15	.516
San Francisco	14	15	.483
Milwaukee	12	15	.444
N.Y. Mets	10	14	.417
Colorado	13	19	.406
Pittsburgh	9	18	.333
Miami	7	16	.304

Standings do not included ties or exhibitions vs. non-MLB teams

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 6, Toronto 5
Washington 3, N.Y. Yankees 0
Atlanta 7, Boston 5
Minnesota 7, Pittsburgh 5
Texas 5, Kansas City 3
Milwaukee 8, Colorado 1
Chi. Cubs 8, Chi. White Sox 5
Arizona 3, Cleveland 1
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 6, Boston 1
Minnesota 8, Pittsburgh 4
N.Y. Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 4
St. Louis 8, Baltimore 2
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 2
San Diego 4, Seattle 2
Chi. White Sox 6, Chi. Cubs 6
Colorado 12, Milwaukee 8
Kansas City 4, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Arizona 7, Cleveland 6
Oakland 12, San Francisco 6

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Washington, 12:05p.m.
San Francisco at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Boston, 1:10p.m.
Milwaukee at Chi. Cubs, 1:20p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 2:10p.m.
Philadelphia at Texas, 3:05p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 3:10p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 3:10p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 3:10p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 3:10p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 3:10p.m.
Chi. White Sox at Houston, 6p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 9:07p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 9:10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 5:40p.m.
Chi. White Sox at Houston, 7:10p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 8:40p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10p.m.
Cleveland vs. Seattle, 9:10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Chi. White Sox at Houston, 1:10p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 1:15p.m.
Milwaukee at Chi. Cubs, 1:20p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 3:05p.m.
Philadelphia at Texas, 3:05p.m.
San Francisco at N.Y. Yankees, 3:05p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 3:07p.m.
Baltimore at Boston, 3:10p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 3:10p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 3:10p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 3:10p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 3:10p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 7:40p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 8:10p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 8:40p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 12:10p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 12:35p.m.
Baltimore at Boston, 12:35p.m.
San Francisco at N.Y. Yankees, 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 12:40p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 12:40p.m.
Chi. White Sox at Houston, 1:10p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 1:10p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 1:10p.m.
Milwaukee at Chi. Cubs, 1:20p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 3:07p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 3:10p.m.
Cleveland at Seattle, 3:10p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 3:10p.m.
Philadelphia at Texas, 6p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 1:10p.m.
San Fran. at Chi. White Sox, 3:10p.m.
Chi. Cubs at Cincinnati, 5:40p.m.
Minnesota at Miami, 5:40p.m.
Tampa Baya at Washington, 6:05p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Yankees, 6:05p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 6:10p.m.
Toronto at Kansac City, 6:40p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 6:45p.m.
Baltimore at Texas, 7:05p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 7:10p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 8:40p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 8:40p.m.
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 8:40p.m.

TENNIS

ATP/WTA MIAMI OPEN

Tuesday at Hard Rock Stadium. Miami Gardens, Fla., hardcourt outdoors

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1Carlos Alcaraz d. #16Tommy Paul, 6-4, 6-4.
#14Karen Khachanov d. #2Stefanos Tsitsipas, 7-6(4), 6-4.
#4Daniil Medvedev vs. Quentin Halys, late
#10Jannik Sinner d. #6Andrey Rublev, 6-2, 6-4.
#9Taylor Fritz d. #7Holger Rune, 6-3, 6-4.
#25Francisco Cerundolo vs. Lorenzo Sonego, late
Emil Ruusuvuori d. #26Botic van de Zandschulp, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Christopher Eubanks vs. Adrian Mannarino, late
LATE MONDAY, MEN'S ROUND OF 16
#4Daniil Medvedev d. Alex Molcan, walkover
Adrian Mannarino d. #8Hubert Hurkacz, 7-6(5), 7-6(0).
Lorenzo Sonego vs. #12Frances Tiafoe, 6-3, 6-4.
Christopher Eubanks vs. Gregoire Barrere, 6-3, 7-6(7).

WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#3Jessica Pegula vs. #27Anastasia Potapova, late
#10Elena Rybakina d. #25Martina Trevisan, 6-3, 6-0.
LATE MONDAY, ROUND OF 16
#2Aryna Sarabenka d. #16Barbora Krejcikova, 6-3, 6-2.
#18Ekaterina Alexandrova d. Bianca Andreescu, 7-6(0), 0-2, retired.
#15Petra Kvitova d. Varvara Gracheva, 7-5, 7-6(5).

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
New England	4	1	0	12	7	5
Cincinnati	3	0	2	11	7	4
Atlanta	3	1	1	10	12	9
Orlando City	2	1	2	8	5	4
Columbus	2	2	1	7	11	8
Nashville	2	2	1	7	4	2
New York City FC	2	2	1	7	5	6
Philadelphia	2	3	0	6	8	8
Inter Miami CF	2	3	0	6	6	6
Toronto FC	1	1	3	6	6	5
N.Y. Red Bulls	1	1	3	6	4	4
Chicago	1	1	2	5	7	7
D.C. United	1	3	1	4	7	10
Charlotte FC	1	3	1	4	4	9
CF Montréal	1	3	0	3	3	7
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
St. Louis City SC	5	0	0	15	15	4
Seattle	3	1	1	10	10	2
Los Angeles FC	3	0	1	10	9	3
Minnesota United	2	0	2	8	5	3
FC Dallas	2	2	1	7	7	6
Austin FC	2	2	1	7	6	7
San Jose	2	2	1	7	4	6
Houston	2	2	0	6	4	5
Portland	1	3	1	4	5	10
Real Salt Lake	1	3	0	3	3	9
Vancouver	0	2	3	3	5	7
LA Galaxy	0	1	3	3	2	4
Sporting KC	0	3	2	2	2	7
Colorado	0	3	2	2	2	8

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
N.Y. Red Bulls at Atlanta, 6:30p.m.
Miami at Cincinnati, 6:30p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Columbus, 6:30p.m.
Seattle at LA Galaxy, 6:30p.m.
New York City FC at New England, 6:30 p.m.
Nashville at Orlando City, 6:30p.m.
Sporting KC at Philadelphia, 6:30p.m.
Charlotte FC at Toronto FC, 6:30p.m.
D.C. United at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis City SC, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Colorado, 8:30p.m.
Houston at San Jose, 9:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Vancouver, 9:30p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 6:30p.m.
Columbus at D.C. United, 6:30p.m.
Austin FC at Los Angeles FC, 6:30p.m.
FC Dallas at Miami, 6:30p.m.
CF Montréal at New England, 6:30p.m.
San Jose at N.Y. Red Bulls, 6:30p.m.
Atlanta at New York City FC, 6:30p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
LA Galaxy at Houston, 7:30p.m.
Colorado at Sporting KC, 7:30p.m.
Toronto FC at Nashville, 7:30p.m.
Charlotte FC at Real Salt Lake, 8:30p.m.
Saint Louis City SC at Seattle, 9:30p.m.
Portland at Vancouver, 9:30p.m.

NWSL

CLUB	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Portland	1	0	0	3	4	0
Gotham FC	1	0	0	3	2	1
San Diego	1	0	0	3	3	2
North Carolina	1	0	0	3	1	0
Washington	1	0	0	3	1	0
Houston	0	0	1	1	0	0
Louisville	0	0	1	1	0	0
Angel City	0	1	0	0	1	2
Chicago	0	1	0	0	2	3
Kansas City	0	1	0	0	0	1
OL Reign	0	1	0	0	0	1
Orlando	0	1	0	0	0	4

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Portland at Kansas City, 11:50a.m.
Houston at Chicago, 1p.m.
Washington at Louisville, 2p.m.
OL Reign at Gotham FC, 6:30p.m.
North Carolina at San Diego, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCH
Angel City at Orlando, 4:30p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Arsenal	28	22	3	3	66	26	69
Man City	27	19	4	4	67	25	61
Man United	26	15	5	6	41	35	50
Tottenham	28	15	4	9	52	40	49
Newcastle	26	12	11	3	39	19	47
Liverpool	26	12	6	8	47	29	42
Brighton	25	12	6	7	46	31	42
Brentford	27	10	12	5	43	34	42
Fulham	27	11	6	10	38	37	39
Chelsea	27	10	8	9	29	28	38
Aston Villa	27	11	5	11	35	39	38
Crystal Palace	28	6	9	13	22	38	27
Wolverhampton	28	7	6	15	22	41	27
Leeds	27	6	8	13	35	44	26
Everton	28	6	8	14	22	40	26
Notting. Forest	27	6	8	13	22	49	26
Leicester	27	7	4	16	38	47	25
West Ham	26	6	6	14	24	34	24
Bournemouth	27	6	6	15	25	54	24
Southampton	28	6	5	17	23	46	23

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Man City vs. Liverpool, 6:30a.m.
Bournemouth vs. Fulham, 9a.m.
Arsenal vs. Leeds, 9a.m.
Brighton vs. Brentford, 9a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Leicester, 9a.m.
Notting. Forest vs. Wolverhampton, 9 a.m.
Chelsea vs. Aston Villa, 11:30a.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Southampton, 8a.m.
Newcastle vs. Man United, 10:30a.m.

MONDAY'S MATCH
Everton vs. Tottenham, 2p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
Bournemouth vs. Brighton, 1:45p.m.
Leeds vs. Notting. Forest, 1:45p.m.
Leicester vs. Aston Villa, 1:45p.m.
Chelsea vs. Liverpool, 2p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

KNOCKOUT PHASE, QUARTERFINALS
1st leg: April 11, second leg: April 19
Inter Milan vs. Benfica Lisbon
Bayern Munich vs. Manchester City
1st leg: April 12, second leg: April 18
Real Madrid vs. Chelsea
Napoli vs. AC Milan

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (2-1-1)

Jan. 25: Serbia 2, U.S. 1
Jan. 28: U.S. 0, Colombia 0
n-March 24: U.S. 7, Grenada 1
n-March 27: U.S. 1, El Salvador 0
April 19: vs. Mexico, 9 p.m.
n-Nations League

ODDS

MLB			THURSDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U UNDERDOG**	
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Atlanta	-240	at Wash.	+228
Milwaukee	-142	at Chi. Cubs	+132
at Cincinnati	-137	Pittsburgh	+123
at San Diego	-198	Colorado	+181
NY Mets	-121	at Miami	+111
at LA Dodgers	-168	Arizona	+154
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
at Boston	-125	Baltimore	+115
at Tampa Bay	-223	Detroit	+209
Minnesota	-135	at Kan. City	+125
at Houston	-147	Chi. Wh. Sox	+137
LA Angels	-209	at Oakland	+187
at Seattle	+115	Cleveland	+105
INTERLEAGUE			
at NY Yankees	-170	San Fran.	+160
at Texas	-132	Philadelphia	+120
Toronto	-110	at St. Louis	+102

NBA			WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Indiana	off	(off)	Milwaukee
at Brooklyn	12½	(230)	Houston
at Philadelphia	5	(off)	Dallas
at New York	off	(off)	Miami
LA Lakers	1	(225)	at Chicago
Utah	5	(off)	at San Ant.
at Memphis	off	(off)	LA Clippers
at Okla. City	off	(off)	Detroit
Sacramento	12½	(off)	at Portland
at Phoenix	6½	(233½)	Minnesota

NHL			WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**	**LINE**
at Washington	-113	NY Islanders	-106
at Toronto	-154	Florida	+128
at Colorado	-156	Minnesota	+130

COLLEGE BSKETBALL		SATURDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**
San Diego State	2	Florida Atlantc
UConn	5½	Miami

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

IOC President Thomas Bach says some Russians should be able to return to international competition as neutral athletes but no decision has been made yet on their status for the 2024 Paris Olympics. **FABRICE COFFRINI/GETTY-AFP**

OLYMPICS

IOC updates Russia plans

By Graham Dunbar and James Ellingworth
Associated Press

GENEVA — Some Russian athletes can soon return to international sports, although their status for next year's Paris Olympics is still up in the air.

The International Olympic Committee recommended Tuesday that individual athletes from Russia and Belarus should be allowed to return to competition under a neutral status as long as they have no military links. But the IOC, facing increased pressure to ban Russia and Belarus from the Paris Olympics because of the war in Ukraine, held off on deciding whether they can compete at next year's Summer Games.

That decision will be taken "at the appropriate time," IOC President Thomas Bach said. When it comes to other events, including Olympic qualifiers, it will be up to each individual sport's governing body to make the final decision on whether Russian and Belarusian athletes can take part.

While the IOC said Russia and Belarus should remain barred from team sports such as soccer and basketball, it still defied repeated calls by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to exclude all Russian athletes while his country is being occupied and attacked. But athletes from Russia and its military ally Belarus who have actively supported the war in Ukraine, or are "contracted to the military or national security agencies", should not be cleared to compete as neutral individuals, Bach said.

The Russian Defense Ministry has said more than 20 of the country's medalists at the Tokyo Olympics staged in 2021 held military ranks. Of the 71 medals won in Japan, 45 were by athletes affiliated with the Central Sports Club of the Army.

In team sports, Russia and Belarus "cannot be considered" for a return, Bach said at a news conference after what he said was a unanimous agreement among the 15-member executive board.

Team events in other sports, such as relays or mixed doubles or team all-around in gymnastics, should also be off limits, the IOC said in a document explaining its guidance.

In the guidance document, the IOC said it would like Russians and Belarusians to be known as Individual Neutral Athletes with the French acronym AIN.

They should wear uniforms that are either entirely white or a single color, and can't have a team logo.

Athletes should be barred from displaying their national flags on social media or making statements "that may be prejudicial to the interests of the competition, its integrity or the participant's neutrality," the 5-page document stated.

The IOC's recommendations "do not concern" the Paris Games that opens in 16 months' time.

"The IOC will take this decision at the appropriate time at its full discretion," said Bach, adding that "we are not kicking it down the road" when asked if the IOC was effectively buying time for the war to end.

Elllingworth reported from Düsseldorf, Germany. AP writer Frank Jordans contributed from Berlin.

IN BRIEF

No replay booth assist on roughing the passer

News services

There will be no assist from the replay booth when it comes to the NFL's roughing the passer rule.

The league's 32 teams declined to adopt a proposal from the Rams that would have allowed coaches to ask for a replay booth review of the often-controversial call. It was one of several potential changes discussed at the league's annual meetings Tuesday in Phoenix.

The list of changes was relatively minor. Among them: Tightening rules on helmet blows by eliminating the "butt, ram, spear" language that McKay said allowed several players to escape fines.

Also, most NFL players now have a new choice when selecting their jersey number — zero.

■ A group led by Josh Harris, owner of the NBA's 76ers and NHL's Devils, and Mitchell Rales and another group led by Canadian billionaire Steve Apostolopoulos formally submitted fully financed $6 billion bids for the Commanders, according to reports.

Baseball: The Guardians and All-Star 2B Andrés Giménez, 24, agreed to a seven-year, $106.5 million contract extension that includes an eighth-year club option for 2031, ESPN reported.

College basketball: North Texas closed on a 10-0 run to beat Wisconsin 56-54 in the semifinals of the NIT in Las Vegas. The other semifinal between UAB and Utah Valley ended too late for this edition.

NBA: The Nets shut down G Ben Simmons. The 26-year-old hasn't played since the All-Star break, appearing in only 33 games due to injuries.

Tennis: Reigning Wimbledon champ Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan extended her winning streak to 12 matches by beating Martina Trevisan of Italy 6-3, 6-0 to reach the Miami Open semifinals. in the men's draw, defending champ and world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain got past Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-4. Alcaraz will face ninth-seeded Taylor Fritz in the quarterfinals.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Gamecocks' bid for repeat, perfection hits final stretch

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

SEATTLE — An undefeated South Carolina team led by star Aliyah Boston and guided by vaunted Dawn Staley, an Iowa squad that features high-scoring Caitlin Clark and the return of LSU and flashy coach Kim Mulkey headline the women's Final Four this weekend.

Virginia Tech is the newcomer as the Hokies are making their first appearance in the national semifinals. Hokies coach Kenny Brooks became the third Black male coach to take a team to the Final Four in women's basketball history.

All of the women's basketball world will descend on Dallas this week as the Division I, II and III championships will be held there. It's only the second time that all three divisions will have their title games in the same place.

Staley and the Gamecocks are looking to become the 10th team to go through a season unbeaten and the first to repeat as champions since UConn won four in a row from 2013-16. South Carolina advanced to its third consecutive national semifinals and fifth since 2015 thanks to another superb effort by Boston. The three-time All-American had 22 points and 10 rebounds in a win over Maryland on Monday night.

Next up for the Gamecocks is Iowa and the sensational Clark. She helped the Hawkeyes reach their first Final Four in 30 years with a game for the ages in the regional semifinals Sunday night. The junior guard had the first 40-point triple-double in NCAA history in the win over Louisville.

The Gamecocks have the experience edge having reached the Final Four so often with this group. No one on Iowa's roster was alive the last time the team advanced to the game's biggest stage. C. Vivian Stringer was the coach of that team in 1993 that reached the Final Four before losing to Ohio State in overtime.

Aliyah Boston and South Carolina are two victories from an undefeated season and second straight national championship. **MADDIE MEYER/GETTY**

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR
Friday in Dallas
No. 3 seed LSU (32-2) vs.
No. 1 Virginia Tech (31-4)
6 p.m., ESPN/ESPNU
No. 2 Iowa (30-6) vs.
No. 1 South Carolina (36-0)
8 p.m., ESPN/ESPNU

"It is like a storybook, but it's kind of been like that for us all year long," Iowa coach Lisa Bluder said. "I mean, we have had — honestly, we keep talking about destiny and how it's supposed to happen and it is happening. But I'm so happy for Caitlin. I can remember sitting in her living room and her saying, I want to go to a Final Four. And I'm saying, We can do it together. And she believed me. And so I'm very thankful for that."

The other game will pit LSU against Virginia Tech. The Tigers are making their first trip to the national semifinals since 2008 when Sylvia Fowles dominated the paint. Now LSU is led by another stellar post player in Angel Reese.

She broke Fowles' record for double-doubles in a season earlier this year and was key in the Tigers' win over Miami in the Elite Eight.

Reese, who transferred in this season from Maryland, has made Mulkey's second season at the school a special one. She came to LSU with a resume headlined by three NCAA titles from her time at Baylor along with some flamboyant sideline looks such as her silver-shimmering jacket with white pants that she wore in the Elite Eight game Sunday.

"What really makes me smile is not cutting that net down," Mulkey said. "It's looking around out there at all those LSU people, looking at that team I get to coach experience it for the first time."

LSU's opponent is also making its first appearance at the Final Four. The Hokies have had the best season in school history, winning the ACC crown as well under Brooks. He joined former Syracuse Quentin Hillsman and Cheyney State's Winthrop "Windy" McGriff.

The significance hasn't been lost on Brooks, who hopes he can inspire other Black male coaches to get more opportunities.

The Hokies run to the national semifinals has been led by star post Elizabeth Kitley and sharpshooter Georgia Amoore. The pair combined for 49 points in the win over Ohio State in the Elite Eight.

RED STARS

4 called up to US national team

By Julia Poe
Chicago Tribune

Four Chicago Red Stars players were called up to the U.S. women's national soccer team for the final set of friendlies ahead of the 2023 World Cup.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher and striker Mallory Swanson earned their third call-ups of the year as they remain in the team's main rotation. Defenders Tierna Davidson and Casey Krueger were called up for the first time this year.

Davidson missed last season with an ACL injury while Krueger sat out because of pregnancy, giving birth to her son, Caleb, in July. The two matches will serve as the last tests for the national team ahead of the World Cup, which begins July 20 in New Zealand and Australia.

Coach Vlatko Andonovski said he will determine his final 23-player roster in late spring, which places a focus on players returning from absences — such as Davidson and Krueger — to make a strong impression.

All four players are familiar faces on the national team. Naeher won two World Cups and an Olympic bronze medal in 89 appearances. A 2019 World Cup champion, Swanson has a USWNT-leading seven goals this year. Davidson has logged 48 appearances, winning a World Cup in 2019 and an Olympic bronze medal in 2021. Krueger has made 37 appearances in her senior international career and won bronze in 2021.

The Americans will play Ireland twice — first on April 8 at Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas, then April 11 at CityPark in St. Louis.

Hawks

from Page 1

years, just trying to stay in the moment and take it day by day."

The Hawks lost to the Dallas Stars 4-1 on Tuesday night, and Toews didn't play. The team doesn't have a timeline for his return.

"It's having some communication with him, how he's feeling, when he's ready, keeping communication with the medical staff to make sure it's also a good idea for him to do that and that's it," Coach Luke Richardson said. "We're just going to go day-by-day here.

Depending on how Toews responds physically, the Hawks "can take that next step later in the week and hopefully (he) gives us the green light to go in a game," Richardson added.

Here are four other things we learned from Toews.

1. Toews' symptoms had been building, but his system all but crashed in January.

Toews recorded eight goals and five assists through 20 games this season. He thought he was putting the fatigue and mental fog of CIRS in the rearview mirror.

"It was a good thing to just continue to play through and knowing that you see light at the end of the tunnel as far as feeling somewhat normal again," he said. "But it just got to a point where I wasn't recovering and it was just progressively getting worse. And I was starting to get pretty alarmed that it was something I was clearly not getting to the bottom of it."

Toews said he didn't want to get into the "gory details" but he was open about the toll: the drag on his mindset and the aches and fatigue that never quite left his body.

"It's just the immune-response thing that they talk about, just feeling completely inflamed," Toews said. "Your whole body, you just feel miserable across the board. It's not fun. And the mood is never great either."

For Toews, it wasn't like a normal injury recovery cycle for an athlete.

"It's not like a knee injury or shoulder injury where you lay under an MRI and your proof is right there," he said. "It's been kind of one of those complicated things even for me, it's been really challenging at times to figure out what's going on."

It all got to be too much to bear in January.

"It just got to the point where I couldn't move on the ice and didn't even want to put on my skates or roll out of bed to come to the rink," Toews said.

"It probably took me a couple of weeks of just wrestling with, in my own mind, trying to figure out what the right decision was, if I should keep trying to push through it or kind of pulling the plug and trying to focus my energy on getting better."

Toews chose the latter and took an indefinite leave. He had 14 goals and 14 assists in 46 games.

Richardson was aware of what Toews was enduring.

"He's a hard guy and he pushed through a lot of things over the year," Richardson said. "I think he pushed as far as he could and knew he got to the point where he wasn't helping the team or himself."

2. Toews felt like he was constantly 'on the clock' to get mentally and physically ready.

"Even last year when the season ends, your mind goes right to, 'How much time can I take off?' And then, 'How much time do I need to get ready for next season?' " he said. "So you're always constantly in that swing of preparation and getting ready for the season or trying to survive during the season.

"It was good for me to just step aside and not have any timetable for a little bit."

3. The thought has crossed Toews' mind: 'This could be it for me in Chicago'

Heading into Tuesday night's game, the Hawks are third from the bottom of the NHL standings.

Needless to say, there's little reason for Toews to play again this season other than the possibility of a last chance for a send-off from Hawks fans and teammates.

While Toews sat out, the Hawks traded a lot of familiar faces and also spent a lot of time on the road.

"I had to put myself first in that situation, try and get things right and go from there," Toews said.

"Having said that, it's getting down to where these last few games, the thought crosses your mind that this could be it for me in Chicago. It's definitely important for me to try and go out there and really soak that in and enjoy it. Show my appreciation for the fans as well."

4. Despite the writing on the wall, Toews was 'definitely shocked' by the Patrick Kane trade.

Kane had been Toews' running buddy for three Stanley Cups in the 2010s, so perhaps he couldn't mentally reconcile they had reached the end of the road together.

But the New York Rangers had been sniffing around Kane for months.

"The possibility was there for a while," Toews said, but he thought to himself, "It's not actually going to happen, you know? You just can't see a guy like him in another jersey."

The Rangers' trade for Vladmir Tarasenko seemed to shut the door on Kane in blue, but it only temporarily slowed the Rangers' pursuit.

So when the Hawks actually traded Kane, Toews "was definitely shocked."

"All of a sudden, you see him in a New York Rangers jersey," Toews said. "It kind of looks good on him, to be honest with you. I hate to say that."

Toews said he's happy Kane joined a Cup contender and "reunited with a guy like 'Bread Man,' " referring to former Hawk Artemi Panarin.

"Kaner's such a competitor that it's going to feel good for him to go out there and play some meaningful games in the playoffs," he said.

Toews has been playing phone tag with Kane and tries to keep in touch by text.

"When we do get a hold of each other, it'll be nice to express my appreciation for all the memories that we had and we shared together as teammates," Toews said.

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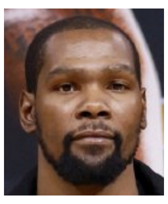
NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Durant set to return to Suns lineup



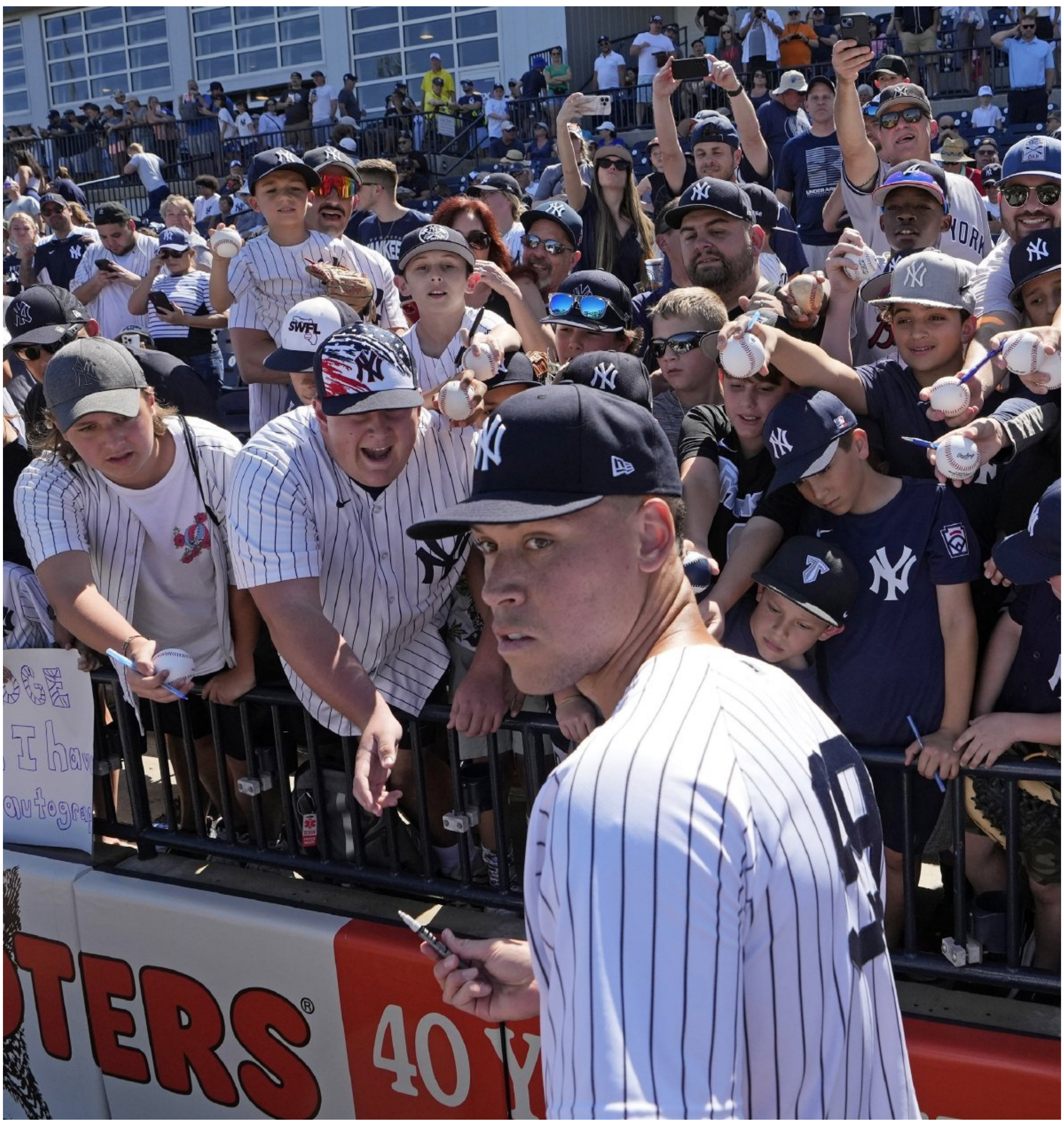
Kevin Durant will make his home debut for the Suns on Wednesday against the Timberwolves after missing three weeks because of a left ankle sprain, according to reports Tuesday. Durant suffered the injury after slipping on a wet spot during pregame warmups March 8. He missed the Suns' last 10 games. The 13-time All-Star has played only three games for the Suns since being acquired from the Nets in a blockbuster trade in early February. For their part, the Nets got three players and four unprotected first-round picks plus three other draft assets. Durant was initially recovering from a sprained MCL that kept him out of the Nets lineup for 14 games. Durant made his Suns debut March 1 on the road. He averaged 26.7 points and shot a sizzling 69% in those games, all Suns wins, before the latest injury. The Suns were fourth in the Western Conference ahead of Tuesday's games. They're 40-35 and have seven regular-season games remaining. Overall this season, Durant is averaging 29.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 5.2 assists per game.

Ohtani really cashing in on stardom

The number will follow Shohei Ohtani until it is over. No, not Ohtani's home runs or strikeouts or any of his magnificent numbers from the field. Nothing like that. It's all about how much. As in how much will his next contract be worth. Ohtani is among several players going into their final seasons before they're eligible for free agency. There's still time for signatures and press conferences before opening day, but history shows a new contract becomes less likely once the real games begin. Forbes reported on Monday that Ohtani will make a Major League Baseball-record $65 million for the 2023 season including endorsements. Ohtani hit .273 with 34 homers and 95 RBIs last season in his fifth year with the Angels. The 2021 AL MVP also went 15-9 with a 2.33 ERA in 28 starts on the mound. Ohtani, who turns 29 in July, could set records with his next contract, likely in the neighborhood of a $45 million average annual value and quite possibly reaching $500 million in total. If the Angels drop out of contention in the AL West, Ohtani likely becomes the top name on the trade market this summer.

Packers GM talks Rodgers trade

Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst said he's not requiring a first-round pick in a potential trade sending four-time MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers to the Jets but added he'd want "fair value." Gutekunst was asked Monday at the NFL annual meeting in Phoenox if there was any way in which he could feel comfortable trading Rodgers, above, without getting a first-round pick in return. "Yeah, I think that's not a necessity," Gutekunst told reporters. "But at the same time, the value of the player – he's a premier player, so getting premier picks back for (premier) players is important." Gutekunst and Jets GM Joe Douglas both discussed trade talks involving the 39-year-old Rodgers, who has said he intends to play for the Jets in 2023. "There's been some productive conversations. Obviously, we're not where we need to be yet. But feel like we're in a good place," Douglas said, adding he's "very optimistic." Gutekunst indicated he could afford to wait until May or June to make the trade. Gutekunst also said he tried unsuccessfully to speak with Rodgers on multiple occasions this offseason. *—AP*



Aaron Judge and the reigning AL East champion Yankees may be looking over their shoulders all season at a stacked division. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

MLB AL EAST PREVIEW

'Tough' from top to bottom

Yankees in position to repeat, but other teams look strong

By Noah Trister
Associated Press

From 1998-2003, the five AL East teams finished in the exact same order every season. Back then, the Yankees were dominant, the Red Sox were contenders and everyone else was left chasing those teams — and that remained the status quo for a while.

Consider this a different era.

In the last nine seasons, every team in the division has won it at least once. The Red Sox have placed first three times, but they've also finished last four times — including 2022. The days when the order of finish was so easy to predict are long gone.

Last season did end with a familiar group at the top — the Yankees went 99-63 — but below them the race was intriguing. The Blue Jays and Rays both earned wild cards, but they had to hold off an Orioles team that improved by 31 games from the previous season.

When asked what he'd expect from the division this year, Orioles manager Brandon Hyde drew a laugh with the simplicity — and obviousness — of his answer.

"I think our division's pretty good. It'll be good next year, too," Hyde quipped. "Listen, we play in a tough division. Those teams aren't going anywhere. It was nice that we took big steps last year, big strides, to be able to compete with them the way we did. ... We're not sneaking up on them this year."

How they project

1. Yankees: Aaron Judge returns after hitting an American League-record 62 homers last season with a nine-year, $360 million contract and a new role as captain for the Bronx Bombers — the franchise's first since Derek Jeter. The Yankees added two-time All-Star lefty Carlos Rodón to bolster the Gerrit Cole-led rotation but otherwise are bringing back largely the same roster that won the division in 2022 before getting swept by the Astros in the AL Championship Series. The Yankees haven't been to the World Series since 2009, their second longest pennant drought since the club won its first in 1921.

2. Rays: The Rays have made the postseason four straight years, and they did it last season despite injuries to shortstop Wander Franco (limited to 83 games) and second baseman Brandon Lowe (65 games). Right-hander Tyler Glasnow missed almost the whole season, and Shane McClanahan finished sixth in the Cy Young vote despite shoulder problems. Outfielder Kevin Kiermaier and catcher Mike Zunino are gone from last season's team, but at this point the Rays have earned the benefit of the doubt that they can withstand losses like that and still win.

3. Blue Jays: The Blue Jays started slowly enough that they switched managers, and a 46-28 mark under John Schneider was enough to lift them to a wild card. The Jays' lineup is certainly good enough to contend for a pennant with Vladimir Guerrero Jr., George Springer, Matt Chapman and Bo Bichette, although outfielder Teoscar Hernández was traded to the Mariners. The pitching staff was top-heavy last year. Alek Manoah finished third in the AL Cy Young race and Kevin Gausman had a fine season as well, but Hyun Jin Ryu had forearm problems and made only six starts.

4. Red Sox: The Red Sox lost shortstop Xander Bogaerts and slugger J.D. Martinez, and infielder Trevor Story had elbow surgery. The team did make some significant additions, though, adding closer Kenley Jansen, infielder Justin Turner and outfielder Masataka Yoshida. Perhaps most importantly, the Red Sox kept Rafael Devers, signing the third baseman to a massive deal. That was a big move for a fan base still smarting from the losses of Mookie Betts and Bogaerts in recent years. The Red Sox could use a healthy season from Chris Sale, who has pitched in only 11 games over the last three years.

5. Orioles: The Orioles could contend for a playoff spot and still finish last. They had a pretty quiet offseason, and it remains to be seen if they could afford that in this division. Rookie catcher Adley Rutschman led last year's resurgence, and there are more top prospects on the way. Infielder Gunnar Henderson made it to the majors toward the end of last season, and pitcher Grayson Rodriguez could give a big boost to the rotation. The area to watch in Baltimore this year is the bullpen, which came out of nowhere to vault the team into contention in 2022. If there's regression, the team will have a harder time duplicating that promising showing.

New schedule

With a more balanced schedule this year, AL East teams will face each other 13 times apiece instead of 19.

If they perform well outside of the division, multiple wild cards could again come from this group of five.

Not counting the expanded 2020 postseason, the AL East has produced 10 wild cards in seven seasons since 2015.

No other division has had more than six wild-card teams.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Disruptive defense key for Aztecs

By Gary B. Graves
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Brian Dutcher lays out San Diego State's mission in plain talk to avoid any confusion.

"We're a defensive-first team," the sixth-year coach said after the Aztecs muscled past Creighton 57-56 on Sunday and into their first Final Four. "Everybody knows that about us, and our defense carries us."

The challenge for Florida Atlantic, UConn or Miami this weekend in Houston is solving the disruptive mix of quick hands and physicality the experienced Aztecs have used to wear down opponents.

Only New Mexico, Nevada and Boise State have cracked that defensive code since the year started, the last setback coming nearly a month ago. Fifth-seeded San Diego State (31-6) is 14-1 since Feb. 3 and it has ratcheted up the resistance in March Madness triumphs against overall top seed Alabama, No. 12 College of Charleston and No. 13 Furman.

All three teams shot just 32% against a rotation of veterans and transfers who have bought into Dutcher's philosophy. Alabama committed 14 turnovers, had eight shots blocked and was held 18 points below its season average in the 71-64 Sweet 16 loss.

Sixth-seeded Creighton shot 40% in the South Region final, but just 28% while missing all 10 long-range attempts during a pivotal second half. The Bluejays finished 2 of 17 from deep, and San Diego State opponents have made 16 of 94 attempts (17%) in the tournament.

The Mountain West Conference's first Final Four participant, the Aztecs will face FAU on Saturday.

"They play a brand of basketball that's built on toughness, built on intelligence," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "They don't take many bad shots, and they're very physical."

Alabama coach Nate Oats said after Friday's loss that San Diego State's physicality bothered his team. He added, "They're a tough, physical, big, strong experienced team, and especially in the first half we didn't come out prepared."

San Diego State is also patient, owing to its maturity.

Seven seniors are among nine upperclassmen that include four transfers. While offense matters, Dutcher stresses says playing defense creates opportunities at the other end.

The numbers demonstrate that everyone's good with that.

The Aztecs rank 35th nationally in field goal defense at 41% and are tied for 70th with 4.0 blocks per game. Creighton was their 16th opponent held below 60 points, nearly 10 below its average coming in.

"We make sure any time we play against a team there's five guys all on one guy," 6-foot-10 senior forward Nathan Mensah said. "We don't take that for granted, and we know our defense will always play out as the game goes."

That faith in defense has been key in overcoming second-half deficits against Alabama and Creighton.

San Diego State's halftime lead became a nine-point hole against the Crimson Tide before it scored 12 straight points to take the lead for good with 8:43 remaining. The Aztecs rallied from a 43-37 deficit against Creighton and never trailed again despite five ties over the final 6:23.

One of the happiest San Diego State players after the game was leading scorer Matt Bradley, who was held to eight points over the weekend after averaging 12.8 coming in. While he was off, he saw the Aztecs get big stops and timely contributions from Arop and Mensah.

"We've got seven, eight dudes that could just get a bucket for us, get a big stop and just make a game-winning play," Bradley said. "That's a testament to what this team has personnel-wise."

Combine that depth with the defense, and San Diego State is in a place it could only dream about before the season.

Chicago Tribune

FOOD & HEALTH

Chef Stephen Gillanders at Valhalla, inside Time Out Market in Chicago's Fulton Market District on March 10. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

REVIEW VALHALLA ★★★½

Making a statement

Stephen Gillanders' restaurant in Time Out Market offers ingredient combinations that surprise

By Nick Kindelsperger
Chicago Tribune

Does one want to hear "The Humpty Dance" while sipping a $35 frozen martini at Valhalla?

Digital Underground's 1990 single is an undeniable jam, if also deliriously juvenile. (Key lyric: "I once got busy in a Burger King bathroom.") Yet, this was the soundtrack while sipping the most expensive cocktail I've ever ordered in Chicago, one that starts with vodka frozen to the consistency of a slushy in a Pacojet, a multi-thousand-dollar chef tool specializing in micro-purees. Oh, did I mention the drink also contains both Kaluga caviar stuffed into an olive *and* cured caviar shaved on at the end?

You'd think the double dose of caviar would do nothing but inflate the price, but the brininess breaks through the steely edge of the vodka. Close your eyes, and you might be sipping on some scenic seaside … except this locale also features "The Humpty Dance" bumping loudly from a nearby speaker. ("I'm spunky / I like my oatmeal lumpy")

To be fair, no one at Valhalla picked that song to match the food, because the restaurant has no control over what plays at Time Out Market. Valhalla is carved into the mezzanine of the massive Fulton Market food hall, in full view of the crowds below. While chef Stephen Gillanders probably could have hidden the project behind a heavy curtain, he embraced the setup. "Instead of covering it up, we said, 'Let's own it and do something really different,' " Gillanders said. "We want people to laugh out loud and take pictures."

Valhalla asks a lot of questions about what it means to be a fine-dining restaurant in 2023. Its prices certainly put it in the same realm as nearby neighbor Next, if not as much as places like Ever and Oriole. But the atmosphere couldn't differ more.

Kombu cured fluke at Valhalla.

Fair warning: Do not visit if you demand a serene evening in a room of neutral colors and hushed conversations. At Valhalla, you'll undoubtedly need to lean in to hear your dining partners and politely ask the waitstaff to repeat themselves if more than a few feet away.

But I also can't think of a meal I enjoyed more over the past year.

Valhalla is Stephen Gillanders' biggest statement yet, the one where his mercurial ingredient combinations hit the hardest and surprise the most. The kombu-cured fluke is one of the most visually stunning dishes I've encountered as a restaurant critic. Gillanders ages the fluke for a few days to soften the texture, pairs it with funky fish sauce and creamy pine nuts, and

Turn to Valhalla, *Page 5*

Dear Margaret restaurant executive chef Ryan Brosseau and his grandmother, Margaret Tetreault, make pies. Brosseau named his restaurant for Tetreault. **DEAR MARGARET**

What's in a name?

The stories behind 7 Chicago restaurants named for women

By Nicole Schnitzler
For the Chicago Tribune

Growing up, I didn't really understand a small plaque in my grandmother's kitchen on Chicago's South Side. It read "Grandma Spells Love." Eventually, I connected the saying with its location, where my grandma spent most of her time. Grandma lived to love us, and she loved us best through food.

Such is the case with some of our city's top chefs. Ask them about the story behind their success, and they will likely acknowledge the mothers, grandmothers and aunts who helped get them there. In honor of Women's History Month,

Turn to Women, *Page 4*

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7 Malört cocktails that prove the bitter liqueur can actually taste good

By Ariel Cheung
Chicago Tribune

I hear your collective shudder, Chicago, but hear me out: Malört cocktails are *good*.

Despite your protests, I know there are others out there like me: those who have repeatedly held back sighs as folks use evermore noxious comparisons to our city's most infamous Swedish liqueur — burnt tire rubber, the Champagne of pain and worse. Some of us truthfully don't mind all that much when taunted with the most bitter of shots, in all its chartreuse-hued glory.

I know this because otherwise, Chicago bars wouldn't keep cranking out these delightfully bright, fruity cocktails with a certain bitter finish that just whispers, "I'll have another."

Over the past year or so, cocktails imbued with the bitter booze have been gracing Chicago bar menus with increasing frequency, said Tremaine Atkinson, CEO of CH Distillery, which acquired Malört in 2018 and began producing it in Chicago soon after.

The Tassles and Assles cocktail at Mother's Ruin in Avondale consists of bourbon, fresh lemon juice, housemade honey syrup, passion fruit and Malort. **SHANNA MADISON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

"It's actually a good cocktail ingredient," Atkinson said. "It's got a fairly straightforward flavor profile: a little citrus, a little herbal, and obviously very bitter. I think bartenders really like that it's kind of a challenge."

The novelty tipple's star began to rise over the past five years, with early adopters like Tied House in Lakeview and Maria's Bar in Bridgeport still tinkering with the city's signature shot to this day. Malört has been incorporated into negronis, boozy slushies and Old-Fashioneds, and you'll find it plays well with a wider range of base spirits than you'd expect.

Not convinced? Head out to

Turn to Malört, *Page 4*

Hilib sambuus (fried beef dumplings) with basbaas cagaar (green hot sauce). While hilib generally means meat in Somali, hilib sambuus are often filled with spiced ground beef. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

Sustaining meals

Savory and sweet Ramadan recipes to break the fast

By Ifrah F. Ahmed
The New York Times

Ramadan is a time to examine oneself and be in community with others. It also centers on food, yet calls for fasting from sunrise until sundown.

During this holy month for Muslims, families and friends worldwide gather before light and after dark to share sustaining meals.

In Somali homes across the globe, you'll find cooks following a shared culinary choreography: Henna-stained fingers fill and fold sambuus to fry to the same shade of golden brown as the soon-setting sun.

Soor iyo dalac bilaash, another beloved Ramadan dish, is a light and comforting option for an iftar meal. The tomato-topped grits feel especially restorative after a day of fasting.

So does rooti farmaajo, cheese-filled buns baked into a honeycomb pattern. Sweet and tender, they're just as welcome at the start of any day.

ROOTI FARMAAJO (HONEYCOMB CHEESE BREAD)

Rooti farmaajo is a pillowy and sweet soft-cheese-stuffed bread that is a popular Ramadan staple in many Somali households. This dish translates from Somali simply as "cheese bread," but it is distinguished by its honeycomb shape and creamy filling. While this bread is a popular treat during Ramadan, it's worth making all year — and makes a good accompaniment to coffee or tea.

Makes: 30 rolls
Total time: 2 hours
⅔ cup warm whole milk, plus more for egg wash
2 teaspoons active dry yeast
1 teaspoon plus 2 tablespoons cane sugar
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour, plus more if needed
¼ teaspoon fine sea salt
¼ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon ground cardamom (optional)
2 large eggs, each cracked into a separate bowl and beaten
4 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon melted salted butter
1 (5.4- or 6-ounce) package of The Laughing Cow Original spreadable cheese wedges, chilled
¼ cup sweetened condensed milk, plus more to taste
¼ cup unsweetened finely shredded coconut flakes

Pillowy and sweet, rooti farmaajo is drizzled with condensed milk and topped with shredded coconut.

1. In a small bowl, combine milk, yeast and 1 teaspoon sugar. Stir together and set aside for 10 minutes to allow yeast to activate. In a bigger bowl, combine flour, salt, baking powder, cardamom (if using) and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Once the yeast mixture is foamy, add to the flour mixture, along with 1 beaten egg and 3 tablespoons of the melted butter. Knead in the bowl until a sticky dough forms, about 5 minutes, adding more flour as needed if the dough is too sticky. Lightly grease dough with 1 teaspoon melted butter. Cover with a clean dish towel and let it rise at room temperature for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

2. Grease a round 9-inch springform pan using the remaining 1 tablespoon butter; heat the oven to 350 degrees. Grab chilled cheese wedges and cut 30 pieces of cheese (about ½ teaspoon each). Once the dough has doubled in size, cut the dough into two equal portions. Take one half of the dough and roll it out into a thick rope. Cut the rope crosswise into 15 equal sections. Take one of the cut pieces of dough, roll it into a ball, then flatten it into a disk and place 1 piece of cream cheese in the middle. Pinch the dough closed at the top and roll it into a ball using the palms of your hands. Once it's round, place it into the greased pan, arranging it with its smoothest side up, and repeat the process with the remaining dough. Make sure the balls of dough are equally spaced out, and allow the dough to rise, covered, for 15 minutes.

3. After the second rise, brush the dough with an egg wash of the remaining egg beaten with a splash of whole milk, then bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

4. When the rolls have finished baking, take them out of the oven and drizzle condensed milk on top. Finish off with a sprinkle of coconut flakes. Enjoy warm. Rooti farmaajo can last 3 to 4 days in the refrigerator.

SOOR IYO DALAC BILAASH (GRITS AND TOMATO STEW)

Thick and comforting like Kenyan ugali or Italian polenta, soor is Somalia's version of grits. A common staple, it is foundational to many Somali culinary traditions, whether it is served with maraq ari (goat soup) for a simple lunch or dinner, or eaten with buttermilk and sugar for a quick meal during Ramadan. Here, soor is topped with dalac bilaash, a robust tomato stew that can be made easily with just a few simple ingredients. The name of the dish implies that it can be created out of nothing, but, despite its humble ingredient list, its flavors run deep.

Makes: 3 to 4 servings
Total time: 45 minutes
For the soor:
1 teaspoon fine sea salt
1 cup fine white cornmeal
For the dalac bilaash:
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium red onion, sliced
5 Roma tomatoes, roughly chopped
1 small jalapeno (optional), destemmed and halved
4 to 5 cloves of garlic, peeled
1 handful of cilantro leaves, roughly chopped
2 ½ teaspoons Vegeta seasoning
½ small green bell pepper, halved and sliced

Soor iyo dalac bilaash, another beloved Ramadan dish, is a light and comforting option for an iftar meal.

1. Make the soor: Into a medium saucepan with a lid, pour 3 cups of cold water and add the salt. Turn your heat to medium-high and whisk in your cornmeal slowly to reduce lumps. Cook, whisking constantly, until the soor thickens, about 8 minutes. Cover the saucepan, reduce heat to medium-low and cook for 25 more minutes, stirring occasionally, until thick. If the soor is sticking to the bottom, stir in ¼ cup of water. Set aside, covered.

2. Prepare the dalac bilaash: While the soor cooks, over medium-high heat, warm up oil in a medium pot or skillet. Once the oil is hot, stir in your onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent, about 5 minutes.

3. Add tomatoes and jalapeno (if using), then cover, occasionally mashing the tomatoes as they cook down, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, smash the garlic in a mortar and pestle. Add the cilantro to the smashed garlic and pound until it reduces to a chunky paste.

4. Once the tomatoes have broken down completely, add the cilantro paste, Vegeta seasoning and green bell pepper. Stir to combine, cover, and cook over medium until peppers are soft but not mushy, about 15 minutes.

5. Divide the soor among plates and top with dalac bilaash.

HILIB SAMBUUS (FRIED BEEF DUMPLINGS)

Sambuus are a Somali relative of Indian samosas; the two fried dumplings are separated by sea and likely related by trade. While hilib generally means meat in Somali, hilib sambuus are often filled with spiced ground beef. But chicken, tuna and more seafood variations exist. If you have time, making sambuus pastry from scratch is ideal, but you can buy premade wraps at the grocery store, or utilize tortillas, as this recipe does, for an even quicker process. Store-bought tortillas are cheaper, faster and preferred by many working-class diaspora families for getting sambuus made quickly, which is ideal during Ramadan, when they are widely popular.

Makes: 20 sambuus
Total time: 1 hour
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium white onion, diced
4 to 5 garlic cloves, minced
1 pound ground beef
1 handful cilantro leaves, finely chopped
1 tablespoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 ½ teaspoons fine sea salt
½ cup all-purpose flour
5 burrito-size (9-inch-wide) tortillas
Canola oil, as needed for frying
Basbaas cagaar (green hot sauce), for serving (optional)

1. In a medium nonstick skillet, heat the oil over medium-high. Add the onion and cook until soft, stirring occasionally, 6 to 7 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until soft, about 2 minutes. Next, add the beef and brown it, breaking down the bigger clumps of meat as it cooks, about 10 minutes. Off heat, stir in cilantro, cumin, coriander and salt.

2. In a small bowl, make a paste using flour and ½ cup water. Next, cut each tortilla into 4 quarters, creating 20 triangular wedges. To make the tortilla pieces pliable, warm 6 or 7 pieces at a time in the microwave for about 10 seconds (or in the oven at 350 degrees).

3. On a clean surface, grab one cut tortilla piece and position the round end closest to you. Form a cone shape by taking the tip at the bottom left and folding it up and over to meet the right edge slightly higher than its middle. Using your finger, brush a little flour paste over the top surface of the folded piece. Lift the bottom right tip of the tortilla and bring it up to cover the folded flap, creating a cone shape. Holding the cone in one hand, fill it with 2 tablespoons of beef filling. Tuck the inner flap to cover and seal in the filling, brush flour paste on the top surface covering the filling and then seal the sambuus by folding the top flap down and pressing to seal, creating a triangular shape. Use the flour paste to fill in gaps. Set on a baking sheet and repeat this process until all of the filling has been used.

4. Pour ½ inch canola oil into a large, deep skillet and heat over medium-high. Once the oil is shimmering hot (you can flick in a small amount of the flour paste and see if it sputters), fry 4 to 6 sambuus at a time until golden brown and crispy, about 1 to 2 minutes per side. Transfer sambuus to a paper towel-lined plate to catch excess grease. Serve hot crispy sambuus right away, with hot sauce, if using.

Note: Sambuus are best eaten right after frying, when they're still hot and crisp. However, if making ahead, you can freeze the uncooked sambuus after assembly, then thaw and fry at your convenience. Frozen sambuus can last several months.

BASBAAS CAGAAR (GREEN HOT SAUCE)

While Somali cuisine utilizes many fragrant spices, such as coriander, cardamom and cumin, it is not traditionally heat-heavy. But spiciness shows up in the form of basbaas, a hot sauce that is a popular condiment. Heat is optional in Somali cuisine, and dishes like sambuus or bariis and hilib ari come with a complementary side of basbaas for those who seek to take their meal to the next level. While there are several kinds of basbaas, basbaas cagaar is a fiery, green hot sauce that pairs beautifully with any meats or roasted vegetables.

Makes: About 1 ¼ cups
Total time: 10 minutes
3 large jalapenos, roughly chopped
1 small serrano chile, roughly chopped
½ cup loosely packed chopped cilantro leaves and stems
3 large garlic cloves, peeled
½ small white onion, roughly chopped
¼ cup distilled white vinegar
1 large lemon, juiced (about ¼ cup)
1 ¼ teaspoons fine sea salt

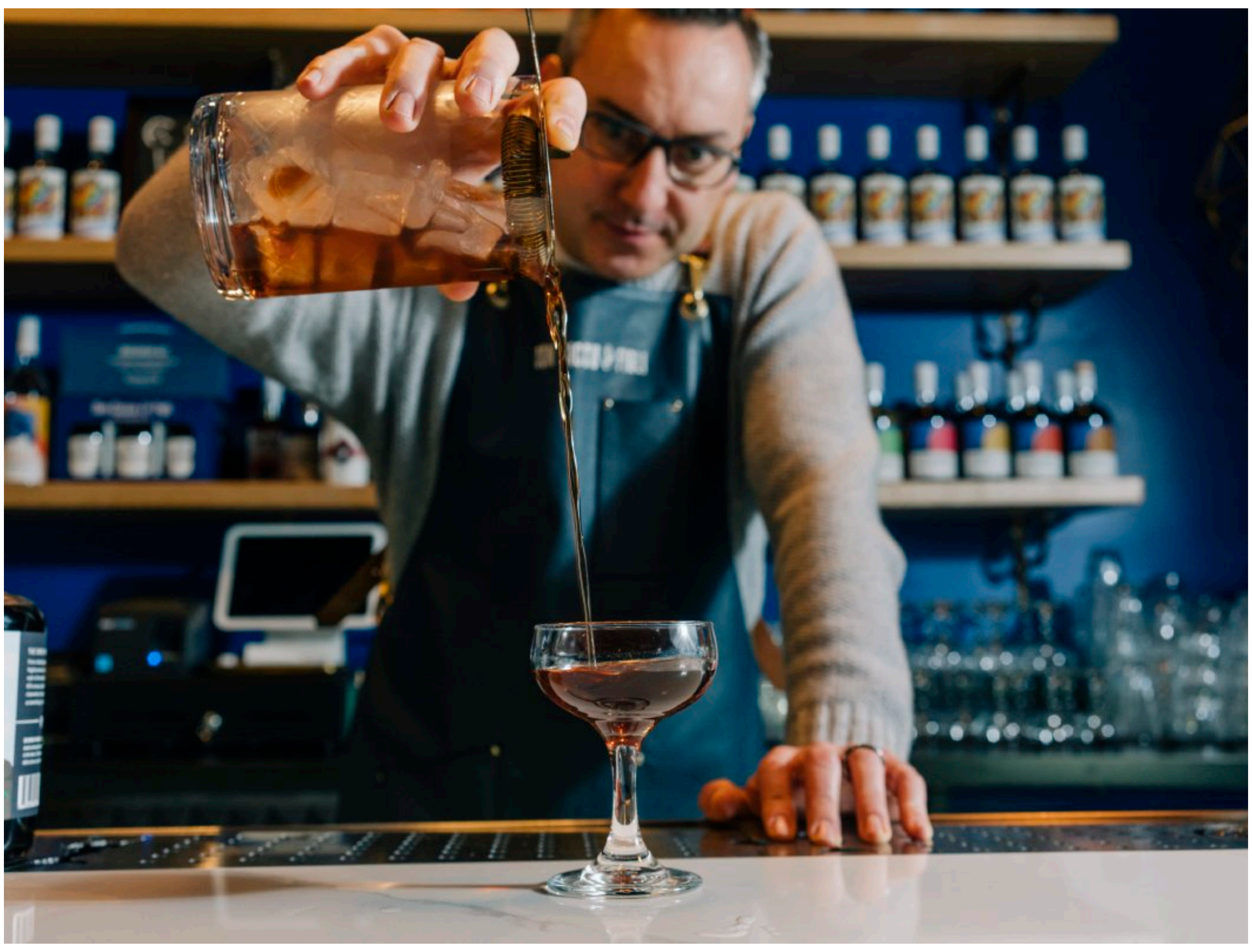
1. In a blender, combine all chiles, cilantro, garlic, onion, vinegar, lemon juice and salt; purée on high until smooth.

2. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container. Basbaas loses its potency as time goes on. It can last up to one week, refrigerated, but is best consumed in a few days, for the highest level of heat.

AMARI FOR AMERICA

Aperitifs and digestifs shake up market amid bitters boom

By Molly Fitzpatrick
The New York Times



Francesco Amodeo, who since 2011 has produced liqueurs at Don Ciccio & Figli using family recipes that date to 1883, prepares a Rye Bandit at his company's tasting room March 4 in Washington, D.C. **LEXEY SWALL/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Depending on region and personal preference, you might order a vermouth on the rocks in Barcelona, Spain, before lunch or amaro neat in Sicily after dessert. Aperitifs and digestifs — alcoholic drinks traditionally served before and after a meal — are rituals inextricably woven into the social fabric of many countries.

But you could also enjoy a pre- or post-dinner tipple in Brooklyn, perhaps even from a bottle made in the New York borough.

Many aperitifs and digestifs are bitters flavored with old-world herbs and roots, and boast centuries-old origins in medicine and monasteries. But a new and growing class of producers hopes to make your Americano truly American.

Bartender and author Sother Teague, an owner of bitters-centric cocktail bar Amor y Amargo in New York City, said the American palate has "one thousand, thousand percent" grown more bitter since the bar opened in 2011.

Accordingly, the number of domestic bitters stocked on Teague's shelves has sextupled. "We went from one or two outlying makers in America, to, now, more than I can count," he said. "More than I know."

Selling bitter liqueurs to Americans would be far more difficult if not for the Aperol spritz, said Henry Tarmy, an owner of Ventura Spirits in Ventura, California. The refreshing, low-alcohol cocktail in a cheerful shade of orange became America's drink of the summer in 2017, thanks to a concerted marketing push. In the years since, sales of spirit-based aperitifs in the United States have grown by 20%, according to IWSR Drinks Market Analysis.

Tarmy's Ventura Spirits produces its own Aperol-meets-Southern California bitter called Amaro Angeleno, and began offering canned spritz cocktails in 2020. The spritz craze "has changed U.S. drinking culture in a really meaningful way," he said.

Aperitivo, a bittersweet red liqueur, is the best-seller for 3-year-old brand Faccia Brutto — grammatically incorrect Italian for "ugly face" — based in New York City's Brooklyn. The founder, Patrick Miller, calls it the company's "gateway drug," especially for customers already acquainted with Campari-based cocktails like Negronis and Boulevardiers. Faccia Brutto's annual revenue grew to $840,000 last year, from $100,000 in 2020.

That's a drop in the proverbial bucket for the 163-year-old Campari Group, which has more than 50 brands in its portfolio, including Aperol, Campari and Grand Marnier, and reported $2.9 billion in net sales in 2022.

But that hasn't deterred American producers, who have widely embraced ingredient transparency in direct contrast to the "super paranoid" approach of European producers, Teague said. In the early days of Faccia Brutto, Miller bought compilations of out-of-print books to research closely guarded Old World methods. But mysterious ingredients and practices are less of a selling point on this side of the Atlantic.

Many domestic producers proudly advertise their use of organic ingredients or avoidance of artificial colors or flavorings. Faccia Brutto's Aperitivo owes its rich red tint to a natural dye derived from crushed insects known as cochineals — a traditional additive used in Campari until the company switched to artificial coloring in 2006.

Chareau, an aloe vera-based aperitif made in Camarillo, California, features just seven locally produced ingredients, including cucumber, mint, melon and lemon. The founder, Kurt Charron, said he chose aloe because it gave Chareau a pleasant mouthfeel without a high sugar content.

In New York, Rachael Petach sweetens her company's C. Cassis, a blackcurrant liqueur, with only honey. "Let's be honest, we're selling alcohol," Miller said, whose Faccia Brutto spirits use "markedly less" sugar than big-name competitors. "But I think the less sugar we all ingest, the better."

For Francesco Amodeo, making Italian liqueurs is a birthright. Since 2011, his Washington, D.C., company, Don Ciccio & Figli, has produced liqueurs using family recipes that date to 1883. Amodeo estimated that he stays "94 to 95 percent faithful" to the original formulations, although he sometimes uses as little as one-third of the sugar his forefathers specified. He's also less secretive than them: Miller credited Amodeo with providing valuable advice when he was starting Faccia Brutto — the more the merrier, Miller said.

Other brands lean into their American provenance as a distinctive angle in a crowded market, hoping to achieve a region-specific "terroir" that their European cousins may lack. For example, Fernet-Branca, the popular amaro brand that originated in Milan, touts a secret recipe featuring 27 botanicals gathered from four continents.

Tarmy infuses his Amaro Angeleno with California-grown Valencia orange zest, thyme and lemon verbena, among other ingredients. Much of the blackcurrant supply for C. Cassis is grown by a single farmer in the Hudson Valley in New York. And Mommenpop, a 6-year-old company in Napa, California, makes its line of aperitifs with Napa wine and other fresh local citrus.

Samantha Sheehan, a Mommenpop founder, sought to achieve a "bright, juicy and fresh" flavor profile that was uniquely Californian. "Why would they buy a California product wanting it to taste like something from somewhere else?" Sheehan said. "We don't have Alpine herbs, but we have an amazing climate" that yields high-quality produce.

Max Plenke-Hammond, a writer in Chicago and a moderator of the r/Amaro subreddit community, is optimistic about the American bitters boom.

"The market is huge right now," said Plenke-Hammond, who named Faccia Brutto, Forthave Spirits (also made in Brooklyn) and Letherbee (made in Chicago) as his favorite domestic producers.

Although he worries that the market might become oversaturated, he believes that "the people who are serious about it are going to stick around." And in his experience, these first-generation recipes, which haven't been precisely calibrated over centuries, taste younger and wilder.

"There's sometimes one ingredient that raises its hand — it pulls back the curtain a little bit," Plenke-Hammond said. "From a geeky standpoint, that's the most fun."

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Saturday, 4/15 | 10pm **Country Night**
Sunday, 4/16 | 5pm **Imphormal**
Monday, 4/17 | 7pm **Live Trivia**
Thursday, 4/20 | 6pm **Chad Clifford**
Friday, 4/21 | 10pm **Poison'd Crue**
Saturday, 4/22 | 10pm **Dick Diamond & The Dusters**
Sunday, 4/23 | 5pm **Mike Talbot**
Monday, 4/24 | 7pm **Live Trivia**
Thursday, 4/27 | 6pm **Smith & Richards**
Friday, 4/28 | 10pm **Sushi Roll**
Saturday, 4/29 | 10pm **JP & The Energy**
Sunday, 4/30 | 5pm **Chris Behre**

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Banana coffee cake is a heavenly mashup

By Nicole Rufus
TheKitchn.com

Over the years, we've published our fair share of both banana bread and coffee cake recipes. There's everything from classic banana bread and Nutella swirl banana bread, to carrot cake coffee cake and coffee cake in a mug. And one day, it occurred to me: A mashup between the two baked goods could quite possibly be a match made in heaven.

Banana bread has that perfect moistness from the overripe bananas, and coffee cake offers all of the crumbly, textural goodness that one could want from a dessert. I wanted to inject some warm flavors into this dessert, so the streusel includes cinnamon and nutmeg.

I also included walnuts in the streusel, which I'm always going to do from now on. I don't always love walnuts inside of my banana bread, but adding it to the streusel really changed the game. It adds to the delightful texture of the crumb topping, creating a delicious contrast to the soft, delicate cake.

This recipe only takes about 15 minutes to prep the streusel and the batter. After that, you let the oven do all the work. The hardest part is waiting for the cake to bake and cool.

You won't be disappointed.

Banana coffee cake is topped with a cinnamon-walnut streusel. **TNS**

BANANA COFFEE CAKE

Makes: 9 to 12 servings
For the streusel:
4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter
½ cup walnut pieces and halves
½ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup packed light brown sugar
¼ cup granulated sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon freshly grated or ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
For the cake:
2 very ripe medium bananas
1 large egg
½ cup packed light brown sugar
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup vegetable oil
½ cup whole or 2% milk
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup all-purpose flour

Make the streusel:
1. Place 4 tablespoons unsalted butter in a medium microwave-safe bowl and microwave in 15-second bursts until completely melted, about 45 seconds total. (Alternatively, melt in a small saucepan over medium-low heat.)
2. Coarsely chop ½ cup walnut pieces and halves. Add the walnuts, ½ cup all-purpose flour, ¼ cup packed light brown sugar, ¼ cup granulated sugar, ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon freshly grated or ground nutmeg and ¼ teaspoon kosher salt to the butter. Stir with a fork until evenly moistened and a variety of crumb sizes form. Do not mix into a paste of uniform consistency.
3. Refrigerate until the butter firms up, at least 10 minutes. Meanwhile, make the cake.

Make the cake:
1. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with two overlapping sheets of parchment paper, so that it hangs off all four sides and forms a sling (place them perpendicular to each other).
2. Mash 2 very ripe medium bananas in a large bowl with a fork or potato masher until smooth (about ¾ cup). Add 1 large egg, ½ cup packed light brown sugar, ½ cup granulated sugar, ½ cup vegetable oil, ½ cup whole or 2% milk, 2 teaspoons vanilla extract and ¼ teaspoon kosher salt. Stir with a rubber spatula until well combined.
3. Sprinkle evenly with 2 teaspoons baking powder. Add 1 cup all-purpose flour and stir with a rubber spatula until just incorporated, but no dry spots remain. Transfer the batter to the baking pan and smooth the top. Crumble the streusel evenly over the top.
4. Bake until cake is lightly browned and a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean, 55 to 65 minutes. Place the pan on a wire rack and let cool for 15 minutes. Grasping the excess parchment, lift the cake out of the baking dish and place on the rack. Let cool completely. Transfer the cake to a cutting board, cut into squares and serve.

Malört

from Page 1

one of these Chicagoland spots for some field research — and if you need another excuse, Friday is National Cocktail Day. Cheers.

Farm Bar Lakeview

Once you've been in Chicago for a certain amount of time, someone will offer you the city's signature drink: a Chicago Handshake, featuring a short of Malört and a can of Old Style. This North Side restaurant tames the no-frills greeting with the Lakeview Handshake, which softens bitterness with Campari, buoys with grapefruit and peach rhubarb bitters, and seals the deal with a 5-ounce sidecar of lager. *1300 W. Wellington Ave., 773-281-2599, farm-bar.com*

Jinsei Motto

It stands to reason that CH Distillery would have its own take to offer. You'll find it at the West Loop distiller's omakase restaurant, where bartenders are wont to include Malört in a number of their rotating cocktails. While past iterations have featured the likes of barrel-aged cherry brandy, the current offering, the Chi Tai, takes the Tiki bar staple and finishes it off with a Malört float. *564 W. Randolph St., 312-884-9602, jinseimotto.com*

Marz Brewing

First dreamed up at Maria's Packaged Goods in 2020 and now stocked at a number of bars, store shelves (including most Binny's) and the Bridgeport brewery itself, Malört Spritz is a delightfully light sipper that's perfect for a Chicago summer. Grapefruit soda, hibiscus and lime juice are tempered with a kiss of the wormwood liqueur, and it's satisfying with every sip. *3630 S. Iron St., 773-579-1935, marz.beer*

Mother's Ruin

This New York transplant doesn't play it safe when it comes to both its cheeky drink names and the cocktails themselves, which came about in collaboration with Toby Maloney of The Violet Hour acclaim. The Tassels and Assels, for instance, starts off as a bourbon-spiked peach tea, but then gets creative with a floral passion fruit liqueur and a dose of Malört. *2943 N. Milwaukee Ave., 872-271-6834, mothersruinchi.com*

The Native

A Logan Square favorite known for its laid-back dive bar vibes and whiskey selection, The Native features a pair of Malört cocktails with very different flavor profiles. CH CH Changes folds in CH Distillery rum and gin along with notes of ginger, lavender, lemon and almond. But if the weather's nice and the patio beckons, consider the Chicago Weather slushie, which punches up gin and Malört with mango, lemonade and grapefruit. *2417 N. Milwaukee Ave., 872-206-5526, thenativechicago.com*

Whitney Dutton makes the Tassels and Assels cocktail at Mother's Ruin cocktail bar on Thursday in Avondale.
SHANNA MADISON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Osito's Tap

This Little Village speakeasy-style bar opened in 2019, as Mike Moreno Jr. looked to carry on the legacy his family had established over two generations of business owners in the neighborhood.

Its cocktail menu boasts a variety of michelada flavors and mezcal-infused hot chocolate, as well as the Chicago Sling. The riff on the old-school classic incorporates tart Koval cranberry gin and Malört, adds a little heft with Grand Marnier, and finishes with the lilting sweetness of pineapple and lime. *2553 S. Ridgeway Ave., 773-277-8117, ositostap.com*

The Wieners Circle

A draft cocktail particularly popular with the industry crowd at this barbed-tongue hot dog institution, the Malört-spiked Hemingway's Revenge is made with Ten To One rum, grapefruit juice and Fee Brothers grapefruit bitters, plus a squeeze of lime and maraschino. For a quick hit, you can order it as a $5, 3-ounce shot. *2622 N. Clark St., 773-477-7444, wienerscirclechicago.com*

archeung@chicagotribune.com

Women

from Page 1

these Chicago chefs shine a light on the leading ladies in their lives — and their kitchens.

Lexington Betty Smokehouse

Chef and barbecue pitmaster Dominique Leach learned much about cooking during visits to see her grandma Betty King in Lexington, Mississippi. "As a city kid, I was blown away by how they would gather snap peas directly from the garden outside the house and take them straight to the kitchen to cook," says Leach, who grew up in Chicago. "Prior to that, I didn't even know how to clean a pea!"

That slow-food upbringing led Leach to open Lexington Betty Smokehouse, a barbecue spot known for its brisket, Chicago-style rib tips and Southern-inspired sides. Regarding the sides, don't miss Leach's takes on yams and collard greens — both of which made regular appearances at Grandma King's table. *6954 W. North Ave.; 756 E. 111th St.; 773-309-8240, lexingtonbettysmokehouse.com*

Milly's Pizza in the Pan

Robert Maleski can remember from an early age being drawn to cooking shows over cartoons — and he credits his grandmother Emilia Maleski for that. "It seemed as though every time I visited her, she was in the kitchen. It caused me to develop a love of cooking from a very early age," he says. "Food was a way she expressed her love for others." Maleski strives for that same care in his work at Milly's Pizza in the Pan, where he makes every pizza himself from scratch.

Dominique Leach, executive chef and owner of Lexington Betty Smokehouse, used to visit her grandmother in Lexington, Mississippi.
CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

That attention to detail yields a light and airy pan-style pie with a caramelized crust and a colorful array of toppings, all of which quickly earned the venue recognition throughout the city and beyond. Be sure to order ahead; Maleski purposefully makes a limited supply of pies per day, ensuring a consistent quality that would "make Grandma proud," he said. *1005 W. Argyle St., 224-656-4732, millyspizzachi.com*

Daisy's Po-Boy

Chef Erick Williams (Virtue, Mustard Seed Kitchen, Top This Mac N' Cheese) can remember the talks he had with his aunt Daisy, typically around a large kitchen table filled with food. "She was a huge supporter of me and my growth, and those memories will always stick with me," says Williams, who strives to create a similarly supportive environment for his team at Daisy's Po-Boy, a Hyde Park restaurant celebrating New Orleans fare through its favorite sandwich. In addition to informing Williams' outlook on leadership, Daisy and her husband, Stew, played an essential role in the restaurant's cuisine. "They would forever change the way I saw Cajun and Creole cooking," Williams says. He makes his case with dishes such as fried chicken, muffuletta sandwiches and a medley of po' boys with fillings such as barbecue gulf shrimp, roast beef and spicy sausage. *5215 S. Harper Ave., 773-675-8767, daisyspoboychicago.com*

Dear Margaret

Growing up, chef Ryan Brosseau learned to cook with his mémé (grandmother) Margaret Tetreault in southwestern Ontario, learning everyday basics as well as seasonal dishes. Every autumn, for example, she and the family spent afternoons assembling meat or fruit pies.

Today, the restaurant honors Margaret's cooking with several core philosophies, from using the whole animal to employing the season's best produce and preserving it for later use. And then there are a few orders that point to the restaurant's namesake — potato croquettes filled with oyster mousse and topped with Osetra caviar (a savory version of Tetreault's cream puffs), or putsins, a French Canadian chicken and dumpling soup tweaked just slightly from the cherished version of the chef's youth. *2965 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-360-8213, dearmargaretchi.com*

Mabe's Sandwich Shop

When Lyndsey Kincaid-Gutierrez and her family learned the Chatham sandwich shop they had recently acquired was named for the original owner's grandmother, Mae Anna, they liked it so much they decided to keep it. "The name hit close to home for us, as our own late grandmothers instilled so many values in us," Kincaid-Gutierrez says.

Though a name change may be in the cards down the line, for now, Kincaid-Gutierrez and her family continue to honor Mae with photos and menu items (such as the Mae Anna jerk chicken wrap) while also imbuing the menu with influences from their own grandmothers — a walnut raisin chicken salad and grilled chicken salad with chopped walnuts, green peppers and cucumber. *312 E. 75th St., 773-891-1798, mabesss.com*

Rose Mary

Two women inspired this West Loop destination — Mary Roche and Mary Rose Flamm, both chef Joe Flamm's grandmothers. "I've been fortunate to cook with my Grandma Mary my whole life, from rolling pasta for raviolis on Thanksgiving to cleaning squid on old newspapers on Christmas Eve," says Joe Flamm. "She taught me the importance of tradition and that time in the kitchen is as important, if not more so, than time at the table."

And the kitchen is where Flamm cultivates the restaurant's Croatian-Italian fare, including pasta, fish and meat dishes such as the pork ribs pampanella, which is from Molise, Italy, where both Mary and Mary Rose's parents were born. "I love having a dish on the menu that has a specific tie to that place — where it all began," he said. *932 W. Fulton Market, 872-260-3921, rosemarychicago.com*

Claudia

Chef Trevor Teich's mother, Claudia Teich, was the inspiration for his upscale Bucktown restaurant. "My mother loves to cook. When I was growing up, she was always creating a festive dining experience — not just on holidays, but anytime we had family over," he says.

Creativity and hospitality were traits Teich inherited from his mother, as evidenced by his whimsical, multicourse tasting menu and his dishes such as the Snails in the Woods, an homage to Teich's childhood playing outdoors. Carefully appointed interiors offer a home-away-from-home feel, and childhood charm runs throughout the space, including a Sherlock Holmes-inspired cocktail menu. *1952 N. Damen Ave., 773-697-9486, claudiarestaurant.com*

Nicole Schnitzler is a freelance writer.

Valhalla

from Page 1

then lightens the flavor with tart green apple cut into crunchy matchsticks. This is a very early entry for the best dish of 2023.

Currently, to experience this dish you'll have to order the $185 tasting menu. The 11-course menu starts strong, with the Snacks to Start featuring a succession of immaculately constructed bites, before the fluke dish and a few other seafood preparations arrive. The heavier dishes aren't quite as memorable, though the pastries at the end finish the meal on a high note.

Valhalla's a la carte menu is ultimately more exciting, allowing you to linger longer on the restaurant's most creative dishes. According to Gillanders, this was deliberate. "I wanted to make sure the a la carte menu was as enticing as the tasting menu," Gillanders said. "With a tasting menu, someone comes in, says that's great, and then you don't see them again. Guests don't have a lot of reasons to come back. We wanted to be a place you can come and have a dish, a glass of wine and a dessert."

I'd return just to order the maitake mushroom kebab. The kitchen amplifies the meaty qualities of the mushroom, before pairing it with sharp chevre, charred avocado and a slightly spicy Fresno chile sauce.

Even better is the Rohan duck confit. The confit is textbook, with miraculously crisp skin that encases lusciously tender meat. Yet it also arrives coated in smoked gochujang, the moderately spicy Korean red chile paste, and rests in a refreshing gazpacho made with tomatillos. On the side, you'll find delicate scallion-sesame crepes to roll up with the meat and dip in the cooling and tart gazpacho.

Nothing about this is remotely traditional, yet the dish feels so intuitive that it doesn't require any instructions from the server. Each bite vacillates between so many flavors and textures — spicy, acidic, salty, fatty, soft, crispy, hot and cold — it can be hard to pinpoint them all.

If you've been following Gillanders, this isn't exactly surprising. After spending years with the acclaimed chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, Gillanders first made waves in Chicago with the now-closed Intro, before opening up S.K.Y. in 2018 and Apolonia in 2021. But when chatting with him on the phone, he makes sure to stress the importance of his team.

He's right. Executive pastry chef Tatum Sinclair's creations are essential to any ending here, striking a delicate balance between playfulness without slipping into indulgence. The standout is the black marble Pavlova, which really does arrive looking like a monochromatic dome of marble. But crack the top meringue and you'll unleash a filling so vibrantly colored it seems to glow.

Along with helping conceptualize the cocktails, including the wild frozen martini, Jelena Prodan runs a lean but fascinating wine program. While you can happily order one of the wines by the glass, spring for the wine pairing if you can, which can be arranged even if you just order a few dishes from the a la carte menu.

Her enthusiasm is infectious, and each offering was better than the last, from the floral Louis Nicaise Brut Reserve Champagne to the remarkable Larkmead Firebelle 2013, a Merlot-forward red blend from Napa, supple and robust at the same time.

With all this talent, is it a shame that Valhalla is located in a food hall, or does the informal atmosphere add to it? You'll have to decide for yourself. All I do know is that it takes an astonishing amount of talent to construct a meal so captivating that it eventually makes the roar of the crowd below fade into the background.

"Physically, I hope we underpromise and overdeliver," Gillanders said. "You walk into this fun casual place, but we take ourselves seriously. But we also aren't (expletive) around. We want to show you the best of what we got."

*nkindelsperger@
chicagotribune.com*

Black marble Pavlova at Valhalla. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

The frozen martini at Valhalla.

Interior of Valhalla inside Time Out Market in Fulton Market.

VALHALLA

Time Out Market,
916 W. Fulton Market
708-222-7971
valhallachicago.com

Tribune rating: Between excellent and outstanding, 3½ stars

Open: Wednesday to Sunday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Prices: Tasting menu $185; a la carte menu, $26-$48 per dish

Noise: Mostly very loud, though they have a quieter dining available if asked.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible, with elevators to the second level.

Ratings key: Four stars, outstanding; three stars, excellent; two stars, very good; one star, good; no stars, unsatisfactory. Meals are paid for by the Tribune.

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AFTER INSTANT SAVINGS

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HEALTH

Racing death

Kizzmekia Corbett helped unlock the science behind the COVID-19 vaccine and remains an inspiration for Black women

Kizzmekia Corbett, in her office at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, played a big role in saving countless lives from COVID-19. **KAYANA SZYMCZAK/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

By Debra Kamin | The New York Times

Kizzmekia Corbett had gone home to North Carolina for the holidays in 2019 when the headlines trickled in: A strange illness was making dozens of people sick in China.

By the first week of January 2020, the number of infected people in China had climbed to the hundreds. Corbett, a viral immunologist, was back at the National Institutes of Health, where she served as a senior research fellow at the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. And that's when the news was confirmed: The mysterious illness was a novel coronavirus, exactly the category of infection that she had been studying for the past five years in a bid to develop a vaccine.

Coronaviruses can cause all kinds of illness, like the common cold or more crippling diseases like MERS and SARS. Novel coronaviruses are new strains that are identified in humans for the first time. And when it came to the race for a vaccine against COVID-19, Corbett, who was part of important work on other coronavirus outbreaks, was at the vanguard.

In those fraught months that followed, Corbett helped lead a team of scientists that contributed to one of the most stunning achievements in the history of immunizations: a highly effective, easily manufactured vaccine against COVID-19, delivered and authorized for use in less than a year.

On Jan. 6, 2020, that goal started to take on a new urgency. As the number of sick people in China began to climb, Corbett huddled with her supervisor, Dr. Barney Graham, the deputy director of the Vaccine Research Center and chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory. Both noted that this new disease bore eerie similarities to SARS and MERS, which each killed hundreds. Corbett's work suddenly had urgent implications.

"At the time, we had no idea it would become a … pandemic," she said. "So what I felt was excitement about being able to prove myself and my work to the world."

Corbett, 37, was used to having to prove herself. As a Black woman in science, she is accustomed to asserting her worth in rooms filled with white men. In early 2020, she had been at the National Institutes of Health for five years and had already published groundbreaking research about the structure of other coronaviruses and how the viruses' spike proteins — which form a distinctive crown shape on the surface of the virus and latch onto healthy cells in the body — act as the doorway to infection. This research was part of the foundation, laid by scientists including Graham, Katalin Kariko and Dr. Drew Weissman at the University of Pennsylvania, for the COVID-19 vaccine, the fastest vaccine ever developed.

Vaccines can take more than a decade to develop from scratch. The mumps vaccine, which was created in 1967 after four years, was considered a wild success of timing. By Jan. 10, 2020, at the urging of scientists, scientists in China shared the genetic makeup of the virus that was sweeping through Wuhan. Graham and Corbett immediately saw that their research on other illnesses caused by coronaviruses like SARS and MERS could be adapted relatively simply.

"Over the course of five years," Corbett said, "we had already determined which parts of the virus would excite the body's immune system in a way that would cause protective immunity."

Understanding that spike proteins were at the heart of an adequate defense against infection, Corbett and other scientists had created experimental vaccines against SARS and MERS. Now, by swapping in the genetic code for the virus that creates COVID-19 — so named by the World Health Organization because it emerged in 2019 — they had a prototype they could already use. Corbett has referred to this ability to apply a template as the "plug and play" approach.

Graham credits her with playing a formative role in the vaccine's development. "Around 2015, Kizzmekia decided that the coronavirus was the project she wanted to focus on," he said, "and it was her work that led to what we knew about the coronavirus and prepared us for making that vaccine so rapidly."

It took her only a few hours to prepare a modified sequence for a vaccine. By Jan. 14, 2020, the NIH had shared that sequence with the vaccine developer Moderna, which used the code to create synthetic messenger RNA, the genetic material that holds instructions for how to build the spike proteins, which are recognized by the body's immune system and teach it how to fight the virus. Messenger RNA is the backbone of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine and Pfizer's vaccine, which also uses synthetic mRNA.

By March 2020, Moderna was running the first human trials of its vaccine, and by December 2020 — less than a year after the first deaths in Wuhan were reported — it was authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use.

Thinking back on those intensely charged first days, Corbett, now at Harvard University, said, "we weren't racing against the pandemic."

"We were racing ourselves," she continued. "It was all about proof of principle." Initially, she was eager to prove that her earlier research could be widely applied. "But when hundreds of thousands of people start to die," she said, "you realize how important the work you're doing is."

She also felt pressure beyond the rapidly climbing death toll. Corbett, who has a sharp sense of humor and an easygoing style, grew up in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and earned her doctorate in microbiology and immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014. She is still working to upend the status quo when it comes to who performs scientific research.

"I try to make sure that my lab and the people I hire come from diverse backgrounds so that our thoughts and the way that we do our science shakes the table a little bit," she said.

She first came on the radar of many Americans on March 3, 2020, when photos circulated of her standing in the NIH laboratory, in a crisp white lab coat, amid a crowd of influential white men: then-President Donald Trump; Dr. Anthony Fauci; Graham; John Mascola, director of the Vaccine Research Center; and Alex Azar, then the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

But just out of the frame, two other young Black female scientists — Cynthia Ziwawo and Olubukola Abiona, both researchers on Corbett's team — were watching their leader carefully.

"I had never seen a Black woman scientist before working with Dr. Corbett," said Ziwawo, 25, who is now in medical school at Indiana University. "It definitely impacted how I view minorities in science, especially those running the room."

In May 2021, Corbett joined the faculty at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she is now an assistant professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases. But she still carries the same pressure she felt in early 2020.

"If I fail as a Black woman, this department at Harvard will overlook Black women until infinity," she said. "People at the NIH would have overlooked Black women if I failed. Being the first in so many kinds of these spaces has so much pressure."

She receives 10 to 20 emails a week from Black women and girls, she said, and whenever she talks to them, she makes a point to let them know that if they, too, want to be a scientist, "I will risk my all to make sure to stand up for them, as long as they are committed. Women need people to stand up for them," she said. "Especially Black women."

Study: Prostate cancer treatment can wait for most

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

Researchers have recently found long-term evidence that actively monitoring localized prostate cancer is a safe alternative to immediate surgery or radiation.

The results are encouraging for men who want to avoid treatment-related sexual and incontinence problems, said Dr. Stacy Loeb, a prostate cancer specialist at NYU Langone Health who was not involved in the research.

The study compared the three approaches: surgery to remove tumors, radiation treatment and monitoring. Most prostate cancer grows slowly, so it takes years to look at the disease's outcomes.

"There was no difference in prostate cancer mortality at 15 years between the groups," Loeb said. And prostate cancer survival for all three groups was high — 97% regardless of treatment approach.

The results were recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Britain's National Institute for Health and Care Research paid for the research.

Men diagnosed with localized prostate cancer shouldn't panic or rush treatment decisions, said lead author Dr. Freddie Hamdy of the University of Oxford. Instead, they should "consider carefully the possible benefits and harms caused by the treatment options."

A small number of men with high-risk or advanced disease do need urgent treatments, he added.

Researchers followed more than 1,600 U.K. men who agreed to be randomly assigned to get surgery, radiation or active monitoring. The patients' cancer was confined to the prostate, a walnut-sized gland that's part of the reproductive system. Men in the monitoring group had regular blood tests and some went on to have surgery or radiation.

Death from prostate cancer occurred in 3.1% of the active-monitoring group, 2.2% in the surgery group and 2.9% in the radiation group, differences considered statistically insignificant. At 15 years, cancer had spread in 9.4% of the active-monitoring group, 4.7% of the surgery group and 5% of the radiation group.

DREAMSTIME

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PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Prunes may strengthen bones, but beware various side effects

By Joe Graedon, M.S., and Teresa Graedon, Ph.D.
King Features Syndicate

A study showed four to six prunes daily was the appropriate amount of prunes to eat to aid bone density. **DREAMSTIME**

Q: I have read that prunes have health benefits. They keep you regular. They are also supposed to be good for bone strength.

I am confused about the "dose." How many prunes do you need to eat to get health benefits? Too many give me diarrhea.

A: A study reported in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (Oct. 6, 2022) reported that people who ate four to six prunes daily improved bone density over six months.

A "high-dose" experimental group were asked to eat twice as many prunes. The researchers acknowledged that the dropout rate among these women was 41%, due in part to "poor tolerance consuming the prunes." We suspect that eight to twelve prunes would cause many people diarrhea.

Some readers worry that consuming half a dozen prunes a day might raise blood sugar, especially for people with diabetes.

Q: I have been taking amlodipine for high blood pressure. When I started drinking beet root juice (one cup a day), it lowered my blood pressure too much. So, I stopped taking the meds and took beet root juice for three weeks and also went vegan.

I'm not saying I cured my high blood pressure, but my blood pressure is normal now. I still check it every day with two different blood pressure devices. Beet root juice in addition to fruits and veggies in my diet seem to do the job. I also check labels for sodium and stay away from it. I'm a 32-year-old Black male also living with sickle cell disease, and I feel great.

A: Thanks so much for sharing your experience with beet root juice. A review of research reveals that consuming this juice can increase the production of nitric oxide in the blood vessels (Antioxidants, July 22, 2022). This lowers blood pressure and improves blood flow.

Q: I have blepharitis, which makes my eyelids red and itchy. I used baby shampoo and hot compresses, per doctor's order, for about 10 years. Then, a different eye doctor recommended OCuSOFT Lid Scrub original cleanser. I love it! It's so much easier to use.

A: OCuSOFT Lid Scrub contains several gentle detergents to remove oil and debris from the eyelids. Although there is no "house brand," Systane also makes an eyelid cleanser.

Q: My feet turn red and burn at night, so I cannot sleep. I have tried going to bed with an ice pack or applying cream, but nothing has helped. My podiatrist could offer no help.

A: It can be challenging to diagnose why feet burn. One common cause is peripheral neuropathy. Ask your physician if this nerve disorder may be contributing to your discomfort. Check with her about supplements such as alpha-lipoic acid, benfotiamine and acetyl L-carnitine. These are sometimes helpful (Cureus, June 8, 2022; Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice, April 2022; Nutrients, Oct. 23, 2020).

Q: What is suggested for the inability to control (hold in) flatulence? It's embarrassing! The odor usually isn't the issue, but the sound of it is!

A: Flatulence is a normal result of eating healthful foods. The average person passes gas between 14 and 22 times daily. Resisting the release of flatus is at best a temporary solution. The gas that has built up eventually needs to escape.

Dietary changes can reduce the amount of intestinal gas that is produced. Keeping a food diary may help you identify the foods that are causing you the most distress.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q&A

Allergies or sinus infection?

Mayo Clinic

DREAMSTIME

Q: I have had allergies since childhood, suffering during both the spring and fall. This past month, however, I am experiencing more congestion and mucus, and I even have facial pain. I'm beginning to wonder if my symptoms are from allergies or if they may be caused by a sinus infection instead. How can I tell the difference?

A: Allergies and sinus infections often are mistaken for one another. But they are two separate conditions. By paying close attention to the specific symptoms you have, you can usually identify which one is more likely to be causing the problem.

When someone has allergies, it means their body is negatively reacting to allergens, such as pollen, dust mites or pet dander. This reaction happens when the immune system releases certain substances, such as histamine, into the bloodstream. This leads to allergy symptoms that may include itching, sneezing, sinus pressure, nasal congestion and discharge. Although allergies can produce many of the same symptoms as a sinus infection, the condition is different.

A sinus infection, also called sinusitis, affects the cavities around your nasal passages. The infection causes your sinuses to become inflamed and swollen. The swelling makes it hard for your sinuses to drain, and mucus builds up. You become congested and have trouble breathing through your nose. Sinusitis often causes thick nasal discharge. In addition, you may experience headaches as well as pressure around your eyes, cheeks, nose or forehead. Though more uncommon, cough and a sore throat can accompany sinusitis, too.

One of the telltale signs to discern if you have allergic rhinitis or a sinus infection is if you have itchy, watery eyes. Itchiness is rarely a symptom of a sinus infection. Contrary to popular belief, the color of your mucus does not help tell the difference between allergies or sinus infections.

Given that you have noted seasonal allergies, pay attention to the timing of your symptoms. This also may help decide if they likely are caused by allergies. For example, tree pollen is most common in the spring. Grass pollen is common in late spring and early summer, while ragweed pollen is prevalent in the fall. Mold and fungi spores are usually more plentiful in warm-weather months. The seasons may be different depending on the region of the country where you live.

Medication response also can help you determine if you need additional care. For allergies, over-the-counter medications, such as antihistamines, can be quite effective in relieving allergy symptoms, particularly itching and a runny nose. You also may try adding an over-the-counter nasal corticosteroid daily to help with allergy symptoms. These nasal sprays help prevent and treat nasal inflammation and congestion, especially if you have seasonal allergies and use them just as the allergy symptoms begin.

If you suspect your nasal congestion and other symptoms are the results of sinus problems rather than allergies, you just may need to be patient. In most cases, viruses cause sinusitis. These viral infections usually go away on their own within a week to 10 days. Self-care measures, such as extra rest and fluids, saline sinus rinses and over-the-counter pain relievers and decongestants, can help. But if symptoms are persistent or severe, antibiotics may be needed to treat the infection.

If your symptoms increase, do not improve with current therapy or last for more than two weeks, you could benefit from a visit with your primary care clinician or an allergist. There are other options to help alleviate symptoms and address ongoing allergies or recurrent sinusitis.

— Jacqueline Squire, M.D., Allergy and Immunology, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

Mayo Clinic Q&A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. Email a question to MayoClinicQ&A@mayo.edu.

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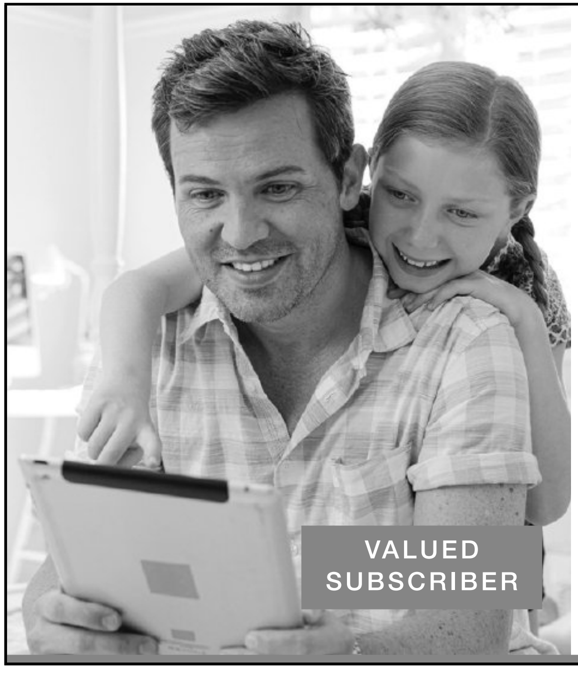

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